

THE
Hospital Surgeon:

Containing the

NATURE and CURE

Of the

Following DISEASES.

LUES VENEREA,
SCHIRRHUS's,
SCROPHULA's,
TUMOURS of the Liver,
and the Breast.
GRAVEL,
SUPPRESSIONS of Urine,
CHOLICK,
ITCH,
TETERS,

SMALL-Pox: And how to
prevent it,
PUSTULES of the Face,
LEPROSY,
SCIATICA,
RHEUMATISM,
GOUT,
WORMS,
A SARCOCELE,
PIMPLES in the Face.



By AUGUSTIN BELLOSTE,

First Surgeon to her Royal Highness the late Dowager
of SAVOY.

Dedicated to the KING of SARDINIA.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. CLARK, at the Bible under the Royal Exchange,
Cornhill: Where may be had this Work at large,
Volumes.

[Price One Shilling]

The Genuine Pills of BELLOSTE, the Son of
of his Son, are Sold every where by J. CLARK, at the Bible under the Royal Exchange,
and Sun, in St. Paul's Church-yard, London. Each Box contains 100 Pills, in 10 Grains, in which Box is a small Paper containing the
Sold under the Name of BELLOSTE, and the Son of BELLOSTE.

To the King of *Sardinia*.

S I R E,

HAVING had the Honour to serve Your Majesty about forty Years together in the Quality of Surgeon-Major of Your Majesty's Hospitals of War; and having since that Time had the further Honour to be first Surgeon to Your Royal Mother of Glorious Memory, about twenty Years more, I thought myself obliged, in Acknowledgment of my Duty, to lay the Second Volume of my Hospital Surgeon at Your Majesty's Feet.

Whatever good Reception the former Volume has met with, This will stand in need of Your Majesty's Protection, as it advances a new System, which notwithstanding its Usefulness, will be sure to meet with Opponents.

But, SIRE, it has been admitted as a Maxim in all Ages, that the General should be preferr'd to any Particular. Altho' Your Majesty has honour'd me with Your Suffrage, tho' You have been convinc'd of the good Effects of my Mercury, and have even publish'd my System; yet I leave it entirely to the World to receive, or reject it; contenting myself with having obey'd Your Majesty's Commands in that which Charity and the Welfare of afflicted Patients seem'd to exact of me.

I may be with Reason condemn'd for moving out of my Sphere, but the prodigious Experience which has fallen to my Share, did in a Manner compel me to do so.

I could, on this occasion, no more bridle my Zeal for the Good of the Sick, than I could formerly for the Good of the Wounded.

My Method has had the Honour to meet with Your Majesty's Approbation: You have seen the Success of it on several Occasions, and in Cases of the highest Importance; which Success having surpass'd even my own Expectation, refuse not, I beseech You, SIRE, the Homage of my last Labours, which I offer to Your Majesty.

Honour, with Your Royal Protection, an old Practitioner, who in the Traacts which make up this Collection, still continues to deliver to Mankind gentle and easy Methods, whereby they may be rescued from many considerable Evils; and who places the whole Glory of his Success at Your Feet, with the utmost Reverence and Submission, desiring to live and die,

S I R E,

YOUR MAJESTY'S

most humble, most obedient,

and most faithful Servant,

BELLOSTE.

many Years together. To them I leave both it, and the Completion of my Promise, when they shall think it proper; for I would not have the Publick always remain without this Advantage.

Reflection and Experience compell'd me to fall into the Opinion of *Magatus*, with Regard to the Cure of Wounds; and I believe most People might be brought over to the same Sentiments: Be it as it will, I shall have perform'd no little Matter, if I have been able to persuade Mankind, that crude Mercury may be administred to great Advantage, without Danger or Fear; that this simple Metal, without Taste and without Smell, may supply the Place of a whole Heap of disgustful Medicines, whose Effects are uncertain, and oftentimes useles and pernicious; and that it preserves the Body and Spirits in Health, and prolongs youthful Vigour.

Those who may suspect that I have exaggerated upon the Matter, in my Report of the Virtues of Mercury, may, if they please, give themselves the Trouble of Reading the following Letters.

They were written by two famous Professors of Physick: The first by M. *Goffe*, Doctor of Physick in the City of *Chièrè*: And the rest by M. *Mancheti*, Doctor of Physick, and Physician to his Eminence, the Cardinal *Pico de la Mirandola*; the one sent from *Boulogne*, and the rest from *Rome*, giving an Account of what this Remedy perform'd upon this learned Physician, on his Brother, and on other Persons to whom he gave it with good Success.

Chièrè, August 12, 1721.

I Should have done myself the Honour, Sir, to answer your obliging Letter before now, but that I was first desirous of observing the Effect of the Pills which you sent for M^c. *la Comtesse Busquet*; I am ashamed that I have been so dilatory; but I intend, by way of Recompence, to give you an Account of the happy Success that attended your Medicine, which

‘ we administred according to your Instructions.

‘ I am to acquaint you then, in the first Place, that
‘ the Lady is perfectly freed from the cruel Pains which
‘ tormented her for above four Months.

‘ We have made use of the Remedy about fifteen
‘ Days ; she had not taken four Doses before her Pains
‘ entirely left her ; she stirs herself freely, and that
‘ with the greater Pleasure, as she had been, ever
‘ since she was first confin’d to her Bed, obliged to
‘ lay on her Back.

‘ After the seventh Dose she got out of Bed, and she
‘ now walks with Crutches.

‘ The Medicine purged her without the least Pain,
‘ yet she voided a prodigious and amazing Quantity of
‘ Water, by the Effect of these excellent Pills ; at
‘ which she is so surpriz’d, and so well pleas’d, that
‘ that she is for continuing them on, notwithstanding
‘ the Heat of the Season.

‘ If you think well of it, I believe it would not be amiss
‘ to send her to *Aquy*, to compleat there what your ex-
‘ cellent and admirable Remedy has so happily begun.
‘ *Monf. and Made. le Comtesse*, send you a thousand
‘ Compliments and Thanks, and pray you to present
‘ their humble Duties to her Royal Highness. For
‘ my own Part, I am charm’d with this good Success,
‘ and beg you to believe me, &c.

This Letter was faithfully translated from the *Italian*
into *French* : The Lady found she had no need to go
to *Aquy*.

The translated Copy of a Letter written by M.
Mancheti, Doctor of Physick, &c. to M. Ci-
cognini, Counsellor and first Physician to her
Royal Highness.

S I R,

‘ I F you fancied that the Gout obliged me to walk
‘ with a Stick, you were very much in the Right
‘ but

‘ but I am to inform you that I have felt nothing of it
‘ for five and thirty Days past: This I attribute to M.
‘ *Belloste’s* excellent Pills, which I took to my very
‘ great Satisfaction.

‘ One of my very particular Friends had a *Fistula in*
‘ *Ano* for six Years together: It came of itself, and
‘ open’d without Pain; it was externally about as big
‘ as a Pea, and discharged itself at the Orifice. I gave
‘ him the same Pills, and in a short Time he found
‘ himself perfectly cured. On this Account I have
‘ order’d 48 Livres for three Ounces of it, which I
‘ beg you to send me. If it is not here by next *Sunday*,
‘ I must entreat you, Sir, to give yourself the Trou-
‘ ble to send it me to *Rome*. My Brother, I thank
‘ God, is pretty well, though he has still some small
‘ Remains of his Palpitation, but not so much as to
‘ incommode him. I was of Opinion that antypocon-
‘ driac and chalybeat Medicines might be serviceable to
‘ him; but, on the contrary, his Symptoms were so
‘ much aggravated by their Use, that he was forced to
‘ lay them aside. I suspected a Sickness of the Fluids,
‘ and that he might have some *Polypus’s*; which made
‘ me fancy that M. *Belloste’s* Pills will be the only Re-
‘ medy for him: I prevail’d upon him to take them,
‘ though the Season was pretty cold, and he continued
‘ so to do ’till all his dangerous Symptoms left him:
‘ His Belly is now reduced to its natural Size, and
‘ his Complexion is very good. I wrote to M. *Bel-*
‘ *loste*, whom I entreat you to salute in my Name.’

I am Sir, &c.

MANCHETI.

*A Letter sent me by M. Mancheti, of the 9th of
October 1723.*

‘ THE very worthy and celebrated M. *Cicognini*
‘ has given me, Sir, such Assurance of your
Goodness,

' Goodness, that I presume to offer you these Lines in
 ' Testimony of the Obligations and Thanks which
 ' both my Brother and myself owe you, although we
 ' have not the Honour to be known to you: We
 ' have experienced, each of us, an equal Effect and
 ' Benefit from your wonderful and most excellent Pills;
 ' the Price and Value of which cannot be confin'd to
 ' a *Louis d'Or* a Grain, if we regard their Qualities.
 ' Yet I should be glad, Sir, if, for the Benefit of Man-
 ' kind, you could a little moderate the Price of them.
 ' I have wrote to M. *Cicognini*, who will take Care of
 ' the Quantity you shall think fit to send me; and I
 ' entreat you to send Directions along with them, and
 ' to let me know in what Diseases they may be given,
 ' and how long they will keep. We shall set out the
 ' End of this Month for *Rome* with his Eminence: I
 ' shall always be sure to retain a due Value and Esteem
 ' for you, and a Readiness to serve you: At present I
 ' intreat you to believe me, &c.

MANCHETI.

*An Extract from another Letter of the same M.
 Mancheti, of the 14th of January 1724, from
 Rome, to his good Friend M. Cicognini.*

' I Must acquaint you, dear Sir, that some Days
 ' since I felt a fresh Attack of the Gout; my Legs
 ' being somewhat stiff, and my Feet in Pain, which
 ' was more than I had felt for four Months before. I
 ' took forthwith a double Dose of M. *Belloste's* Pills,
 ' which is a whole Dram; and to my great Surprise,
 ' the Operation of the Medicine was not over, before
 ' all my Symptoms were gone. I cannot give too
 ' great a Character, either of the Remedy, or its Au-
 ' thor, whom I beg you to salute in my Name; I
 ' should be heartily glad, could I be of any Service to
 ' him



T O T H E
R E A D E R.

THE great Reputation that my Father Augustin Belloste got by his Mercurial Pills, having administered them to Persons of the greatest Rank, and in Hospitals in several Countries, with surprising Success, and having them universally recommended by the best of Physicians, as a certain Cure for many Diseases; I say the great Reputation of these Pills, I am informed, has tempted many Persons to counterfeit them, and to impose their Compositions upon the Publick under the Name of Belloste, to the great Prejudice of my Father's Character, and to the Injury of the Publick; by making them take a Medicine, that cannot answer the Intentions of Belloste's Pills.

I have received from London a Box of Pills sold by the Name of Belloste's Pills at the B——e F——r P——t in G——t P——y S——t, and with a Book call'd an Analysis of Belloste's Pills, given with every Box of those Pills; by examining of which, I have discovered the greatest Imposition that can be, which has induced me to send a Parcel of my Father's Pills to my Friend in London, and desiring him also to Reprint the second Volume of Belloste's Hospital Surgeon, in which he gives an
Account

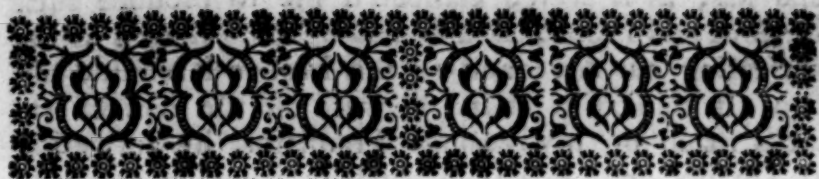
Account of his Pills, and by these Means I hope to Restore the Credit of my Father's Medicine in England.

Augustin Belloste in his Life Time was very tenacious of this Secret, and always prepared the Pills himself; and though he many Times might have had a large Reward for discovering the Recipe, yet he never wou'd, because he intended to retain the Secret in his own Family; † how then can any Person in England pretend to make these Pills, since they must be intirely ignorant of the Secret? Therefore all Pills that are sold under the Name of Belloste, are Counterfeits, excepting those that I have sent to England sealed with our Seal, which by my Permission are sold only by J. Newbery, at the Bible and Sun in St. Paul's Church-Yard.

I have but one thing more to observe about the Book an Analysis (before mention'd) that it says, that Belloste's Pills cure Consumptions, Hypochondriac Disease, or Melancholy, old Stoppages of Courses, Spilling of Milk after Delivery, Loosenesses, and Disenteries, and which, if compared with the Hospital Surgeon, the Publick will be convinced is intirely false; and that as my Father knew they were not a Cure for those Diseases, so he never pretended they were. But such Persons as shall take the Pills I have sent to England, will experience them to be a certain Cure for the Distempers set down in the Contents, with the same Success that they have done for these sixty Years past.

2 AU 65 L. BELLOSTE.

† See p. 52, 53.



T H E
Hospital Surgeon.



Of Mercury.



MAY well enough be excused the Ceremony of a Preface to the following Pieces, since my Reader will soon perceive them to be the Result of a long Practice and Experience, join'd with a sedulous Application. It may not, however, be amiss to acquaint those who have not read my former Work, which was first printed in 1695, that this has a Connexion with it; and may be esteemed an additional Advantage thereto, as it serves to perfect and compleat it; tho' without such Assistance it has already met with an universal Approbation, having been render'd into all the Languages of *Europe*.

It should be observ'd likewise, that the *Italian* Translation of the very famous M. *Sancafany*, Counsellor and first Physician to his Highness the Duke *de Guastale*, has brought over some Persons who were obstinately tenacious of old Maxims, and had written professedly against this new Method.

Surgery owes them this Obligation; that their Obscurity has thrown a new Light on my Imagination,
B and

and has, as it were, compell'd me to produce such Reasons and Proofs, as may make some Progress in the perfecting our Art; and on this Motive I resum'd my Pen. I think I'm bound to ward off the indirect Attacks made on my zealous Translator, by answering all Doubts and Objections, and by opposing the false Maxims of Antiquity with Reason and actual Experience.

In the Affair of this Dispute, I was not a little surpriz'd to see my Letters translated and printed, by the Care of my sagacious Translator, notwithstanding the harsh, laconic, obscure and inartificial Style in which they were written.

However they happened to be well received by many very excellent Professors, of which there is an abundance in *Italy*. My Translator has several Pieces in his Possession, of which I never took a Copy; and in this Collection there are some already printed in *Italian*, which I have review'd, amended, and made some Additions to; but as the *Italian* Tongue is not much in use in *France*, I chose to publish them here, in the same Language with my former Work.

I should observe likewise, that I had the good Fortune, of my own accord, to fall in with the Opinion of the famous *Cæsar Magati*, and afterwards to raise him up out of the Obscurity in which he had remain'd for more than a whole Century together.

This is a sort of Miracle wrought by my former Work. The Reader will meet with other Miracles of Art in this: Eyes entirely lost, restor'd by one single Operation, and a Number of exquisite and mortal Cases, according to a wrong way of Treatment, conquer'd by gentle and speedy Methods. These will appear upon a Perusal of this Work; and a faithful Practice will evince the Truth of them. The Resuscitation of *Magatus* is owing to Chance: The happy Success of our Operation in Diseases of the Eyes, is no Invention of mine; I have only had the Advantage of setting it forth on several Occasions, having never met but with one Person in all my Life who put it in practice before me.

Mer^d

Mercury, whose Virtues I here publish, is a Miracle of Nature, and the greatest Gift of Providence in the whole *Materia medica*.

Chance has let me into a greater Knowledge of it, than all I could collect from those who have used it, or wrote of it.

I am ready to acknowledge, it was not in consequence of any Reasoning, that I first enter'd upon the Use of it; however, the Success I met with from its Administration emboldened me to stick to it, and to add Authority to one Experience, by another; my future Employes gave me frequent and favourable Opportunities of trying its Efficacy in many chronical and inveterate Cases, which were esteem'd incurable, yet they entirely gave way to crude Mercury. I have found out a Method to prevent it from subliming, tho' without such a Restraint, I cannot be of Opinion that the Heat of our Bodies is sufficient to sublime it. I have mix'd it with gentle Purgatives, which determine one Part of its Action by Stool; another Part of it communicates itself to the Blood, mixes with the Lymph in Circulation, without losing its globular Figure, and never leaves it till it has render'd it capable of penetrating every where by its Subtilty and Fluidity, and of nourishing all Parts by means of its balsamic Particles, which it re-instates in their natural Condition, when they are deprav'd and alter'd, and removes all Obstacles that may impede its Progress. It is a profess'd Enemy to every Thing heterogeneous, vitiating, or malignant: As I became acquainted with its Virtues thro' a long and constant Use of it, I have not been very anxious about consulting the Authors who had written of it, having perus'd but a few of them: I know that some extol it, as Mr. *Lemery*, and others.

Avicen says, that some People drink it without any ill Consequence, and orders it for Children in Scald-heads. *Planiscampus* attributes more excellent Qualities to Mercury than to Guaiacum. *Marianus Sanctus* directs four Pounds of it to be taken in the Iliac Passion. *Antonius Musa*, and *Mesué* recommend it for Worms and the

Itch. Mr. *Le Duc*, a Physician, who made a Voyage to the *Levant*, tells us, that the Women of *Smyrna* frequently swallow two Drams of it at a Time to make them conceive: He laughs at those who think it a Poison; for, says he, the Workers in Quicksilver Mines have got a Trick of swallowing some Pounds of it, just as they are leaving off Work; which as soon as they get home they discharge and sell. To prevent which Roguery, 'tis usual to shut them up for some Hours after they have done work, and so they'll be constrained to let go what they have swallowed.

Some look upon it to be hot, and others cold; however, if it softens the Blood, if it mitigates the most exquisite Pains, and appeases the Tumult of the Spirits in the *Volvulus*, and in many other Disorders; if it disposes Persons to grow Fat, as without doubt it does; these Considerations put together, make it more probable that 'tis cold than hot, at least that 'tis of a Temper between both.

But be it hot or cold, 'tis its Effects that I have regard to, and not its Qualities. Let it be extoll'd or condemn'd, its Goodness will be still the same: 'Tis Matter of Fact that no one Thing in Nature is capable of producing so salutary and surprizing Effects in almost all Disorders; notwithstanding many take upon them to run it down: 'Tis indeed a good Medicine, cries one; but then 'tis dangerous: This is giving it a good and a bad Character in a Breath, and thereby making way for Fears and Doubts, and depriving a Number of afflicted Persons of the speedy Help they might obtain from its Use, till they have languish'd out their Lives under a Load of Diseases and fruitless Remedies.

Experience being the strongest of all Proofs, I thought it might not be improper to relate some Cures perform'd at different Times, on different Subjects, and in different Disorders. Were I to publish all those which I have performed in the Space of the three and forty Years that I have made use of Mercury, a very large Volume would hardly contain them. In this Treatise I have taken the same Method as in my former Work, where

at,

at the End of the Cure of each Wound, I have annexed an Observation by way of Reflection; and in this I have likewise subjoin'd a kind of *Rationale* to every Experience, in order to explain the mechanical *Idea* which I had of this Remedy.

In the Year 1681, being at *Turin*, a young Abbé inform'd me, that after an impure Commerce, he had been attack'd with some venereal Complaints, which were taken but bad Care of; that some Months after he was afflicted with nocturnal Pains in diverse Parts of his Body, together with an Ulcer in his Nose, which he shew'd me. He told me that the Posture of his Affairs, and the Season of the Year, would not permit him to enter upon a strict Course of Medicine; and that it was of the highest Consequence that his Disorder should be kept in Privacy; desiring me to contrive him something which might for the present hinder its further Progress, and in the Spring he said he would go to *Paris* for the Conveniency of pursuing his Cure.

I had at that Time but a superficial Knowledge of Mercury; so I made him up, according to my usual Manner, a Mass of purging Pills, and order'd him to take a single Pill every other Night going to Bed.

He had not taken them above five Times, before he told me his Pains were diminish'd, and his Ulcer become much better. And after eleven or twelve Doses, he found himself entirely cur'd, to his own Surprize as well as mine, who imagin'd that I was all this while administering no more than a palliative Remedy.

I advis'd him however to continue his Medicine for some little Time longer, for Security's sake; and 'tis very certain that he never afterwards felt the least Symptom of the Disorder.

If we consider, that Mercury is the only Remedy capable of destroying the venereal Virulence, it will be no ways surprizing that it wrought this Effect in the present Case. But it seems not easily to be accounted for, how it should act in so salutary a Manner, without giving the Patient the least Inconvenience or Conflict; he having never, through the whole Course of

his Cure, been interrupted in his Sleep, or Diet, nor was he confin'd to his Bed or Chamber, or any ways alter'd his usual Way of Living, so as to give any one the least Suspicion that he was under a Course of Physick.

This was the first Cure I ever perform'd in such a Manner, being at that Time Surgeon Major of the Hospital of *Briançon*, where I administred the same Remedy to a great many Persons, with the same Success. In the Year 1694, Mr. *le Marechal de Catinat* sent me several subaltern Officers to *Oulx*, who were attack'd with the same Maladies: They took no other Remedy, and return'd to the Army in six Weeks, fat, brisk, and sound, without farther Trouble. I omit a Relation of the Particulars, for the Sake of avoiding an offensive Prolixity, and shall only give an Instance of a Cure of each Kind, unless some extraordinary Circumstances induce me to the contrary.

In the following Year 1682, Mr. *le Comte de St. George*, Gentleman of the Horse to her Royal Highness, and a Captain in the Guards, desir'd me to visit the Corporal of his Company, who for two Years had a schirrhous Tumour, at that Time as big as one's Head, which cover'd his right Thigh, so that he was forc'd to walk very incommodiously with a Pair of Crutches: The most noted Surgeons in *Turin* had order'd him many Remedies without Success: I was resolv'd to try what Mercury would do with him, and having continu'd it in the Manner afore-mention'd for eighteen or twenty Days, the Tumour softned, and came to Suppuration. I opened it, and there issued from it seven or eight Pints of Pus and Lymph, and in a Month he was perfectly cured, laid aside his Crutches, and walk'd at Liberty.

This second Cure gave me a high Esteem for the Remedy, but my Removal to another Station soon afterwards, debarr'd me of frequent Opportunities of applying it as I wish'd. Besides, my Age had not as yet advanc'd me to a requisite Degree of Credit for acting as I thought.

thought proper, so that I was forc'd to wait a more favourable Season.

In the Year 1687, being Surgeon Major of the Hospital of *Luzerne*, I made use of it with Success in several hard and schirrhous Tumours. I found that those which were but of a moderate Size, and of no very long Duration, would be dissipated without suppurating; and that the large and old ones would come to Suppuration. This made me of Opinion, that notwithstanding their Hardness, Age, and Insensibility, yet they were not intirely without a Communication with the Fluids.

To give a mechanical Explanation of the Effect which Mercury is able to produce in these Tumours, it must be considered that the Matter which forms *Schirrhous's* and other Tumours that are owing to Congestion, as well as Obstructions in all other Parts of the Body, cannot put itself in Motion, when it is once accumulated and stopp'd: Notwithstanding the Springiness of the Parts, there is an absolute Need of something to shock, subtilise, render it fluid, and disunite it.

To answer these Purposes, the Fluids which circulate in Tumours, as likewise in all Parts of the Body, must be put into a rapid Motion, sufficient to disconcert, loosen, and remove that which before was fix'd and motionless. 'Tis Mercury alone that is complete in these Indications, as it unites itself with the Lymph, follows its Motion, and accompanies it through all Parts.

These little Globules, divisible to Infinity, roll along with it inseparably: The Rotundity of their Figure make them fit to combat the Obstacles they meet with in their Way, without any Fear of their being stopp'd, withheld or entangled: They slide upon, strike, rub, and set in Motion the Particles of the Matters which were united, glued together, connected and coagulated, in the Parts, or in the Glands, contrary to the Laws of Nature: They render them fluid, reduce them to Pus, or carry them away with themselves, to eliminate them

out of the Body by the perspiratory Passages, or by Stool or Urine.

By this Mechanism unnatural Tumours, Obstructions in Ulcers, and other Parts of the Body, are destroyed, the Fluids being re-establish'd in that free Course which is necessary to Life, and the Preservation of Health: Such is the Conception which I have of the two Operations of Mercury on Coagulations; that of absorbing, and that of dissolving; though these are philosophical Terms, which with regard to operative Effects are to be explain'd in a quite different Manner, as I shall endeavour to shew hereafter.

In 1691, being Surgeon-Major of the Hospital of *Briançon*, I was brought to see a young Woman, who had a Tumour on her right Cheek for two Years: When it came to Suppuration it was dress'd with a Tent, which left a *Fistula* in the Part, and by degrees the lower Jaw became so fixt, that it had entirely lost its Motion, and her Mouth was in a manner clos'd, insomuch that she was constrain'd to live wholly on Broths or other Liquids. I was told that she had made use of several Remedies without any Success.

I ordered some very small Pills to be made up for her, one of which she took every other Day for a Month, at the End of which her Cheek was loosened, her Mouth opened, and her *Fistula* quite cured; which gave the Patient an equal Degree of Joy and Astonishment. This Cure, as it was somewhat surprizing to me, so did it prevail on me to administer the Remedy in several chronical Diseases, which had before eluded the Force of all the usual Medicines, yet it, notwithstanding, gave way to this.

The greatest Part of the *Fistula's*, which happen in Wounds and Abscesses, are the Consequences of Tents, which by turning down the Fibres of the Canal, into which they are introduc'd, and by their frequent Friction, and continual Compression, unite them, and make them adhere to one another, 'till what is usually call'd a *Callus* be formed.

As there are in all Parts of the Body a great Number

ber of small Vessels, which convey the Lymph and the other Juices; The Orifices of the little Tubes, which are contain'd within the whole Extent of the *Callus*, and which confining and bearing upon the afore-mention'd replicated and united Fibres, the round Particles of the Mercury, with which the Lymph is charged, being impell'd against these Fibres, do shock, disunite, and relieve them: The nutritious Juice expands itself among the Fibres thus relieved, and reinstate them in their original Form: I think 'tis not easy to explain in any other Manner, how Mercury produces its Effect on the *Callus's* of *Fistula's*, than by its shocking and disengaging the Fibres which were before replicated and glued together; in which Case it is absolutely necessary that the Tent should be thrown aside: Those who will needs have it, that its Virtue consists in sucking up Acids, should not urge that Consideration here, where there are no Acids to be suck'd up; or if they urge that it serves to dissolve the *Callus*, let them give some mechanical Account, how that can be; for 'tis certainly true that it must act here, as in Obstructions and Tumours, and that 'tis only in virtue of some mechanical Property, that it answers the End in such a Number of different Cases.

After the Peace in 1696, I had the Honour to succeed in the room of the famous M. *Thouvenot*, who was, 'till his Death, first Surgeon to her Royal Highness; soon after I came to *Turin*, I saw a poor Girl begging on the Steps of St. *John's* Church, in a Place call'd *Cornie*: The many scrophulous Holes in her Face and *Sternum*, render'd her an Object horrible to look at: Besides this, her Neck was full of swoln Glands, and her Hands and Feet were quite deform'd.

I sent for her Home, and prevail'd upon her to take a Dose of my Mercury every other Day, and being willing to see her take the first Dose myself, I order'd some Soop to be brought her, to swallow after it.

She continued the Use of this Medicine for six Months, at the End of which she was entirely cured; so that she was

was married, had Children, became a Widow, and is at this Time married again, notwithstanding the Deformity which her *Cicatrices* carry with them: She is now living, and every one in *Turin* knows her: She was a Surety in Baptism to the first Child it pleased God to bless me withal.

Scrophulous Cases are very difficult to cure, and very few Remedies affect their Cause. They frequently occur in some Climates and Nations, and are not seldom the Inheritance of our Ancestors Irregularities: Their Source is in the Blood, their Seat in the Glands and Joints. They are rebellious to Remedies through their cold Nature, and the Tenacity of their Humour, which is inspissated by an Acid.

It has been long since confess'd, that Mercury alone is capable of working a thorough Cure in these Disorders, whether by liquefying, dissolving, and putting in Motion the Liquors, or by destroying the Acids and vicious Ferments, which occasion the Lymph to coagulate, and by sending Spirits and Heat into the afflicted Members: It is in short, the only known Remedy that answers every Indication.

The Acid which causes these cold Coagulations, is exceeding difficult to be destroy'd. The Mercury can in its Motion but little affect its soft and glutinous Texture: And for this Reason 'tis a considerable Time before it is able to disconcert it, and break or blunt the Points of the Acids which cause it; however, 'tis past all Dispute, that it does it at last; for by circulating with the Lymph in the Articulations, and in the scrophulous Glands, it by gentle Degrees removes the Obstacles which oppose the Course of the Liquids: These Cures are gentle though long. A Salivation would be more expeditious, but then it would be more fatiguing and dangerous.

About a Year after, I had under my Care M. *Dufaure*, a *Frenchman*, married at *Turin*, and well known all over the City. He had been afflicted with a Tumour in the Liver for above two Years, for which he had

had consulted several Universities; but all the Remedies he applied were of no Use.

This Tumour was bigger than ones Fist, exceeding painful, and had an external Eminence, by which 'twas easy to determine the Extent of it: His Pulse was irregular, he was troubled with frequent *Syncopes*, want of Sleep, and an universal Uneasiness.

I propos'd to him the Use of my Remedy, as a Dissolvent very fit to dissipate his Tumour: He drank with it a chalybeated Wine, in which *Capillus Veneris* was infus'd: After continuing his Medicines one Month he was perfectly cured.

This Tumor was schirrhus, notwithstanding it was painful; which might possibly be from the Compression it occasion'd on the Parts to which it adhered: I have no other particular Remark to make on this Disorder. 'Tis now four or five and twenty Years since he was cured: He has perceived nothing of the Matter since that time, but is now in perfect Health.

Me. *Couturiere*, Milliner to her Royal Highness, my Neighbour and very good Friend, was afflicted in 1703 with a Tumour in her Breast, which in a short time grew to a considerable Size, being very painful and hard, and tending directly to a *Carcinoma*.

She us'd the same Remedy, and was entirely cured in one Month, having never since felt the least Pain in that Part. I have cured great Numbers both at Court, and in the City, with the same Medicine; and very lately a Lady of the first Rank, but out of Respect I forbear to mention her Name, tho' she has made no Secret of the Cure herself: However if these Complaints are inveterate, the best Way is either to do nothing at all to them, or to proceed forthwith to Amputation: They have ever been look'd upon as Cases of the most difficult Cure, and are deem'd incurable, when ulcerated. They are cruciating and insupportable on Account of their Pain and Stench; and there is nothing but crude Mercury, taken inwardly, which by Friction is able to blunt the Points of the Acids that wear away the Flesh in the Parts afflicted. And when it is impossible

possible to attain to a Cure, nothing is more fit to mitigate the Pain, prevent a further Progress, and oppose Corruption and Stench ; and to these Ends I have often administred it in such miserable Circumstances.

When our Court attended the Queen of *Spain* as far as the Borough of *Cony* in 1702, I was in returning back, seiz'd in the City of *Fousan*, with a Fit of the Gravel, which was so very violent, that I imagin'd it would cut me off ; I voided in the Bath which was prepared for me, small Stones and Gravel with inconceivable Torture, and the Liquor which came away was sincere Blood instead of Urine.

I was brought to *Turin*, where Mr. *Fousage*, at that time first Physician to her Royal Highness, order'd me Medicines for three Months, at the End of which I relaps'd into my former Condition, voiding Stones and Gravel with excessive Pain.

At length I began to take my Dissolvent into Consideration ; imagining, that these Stones were form'd and conglutinated by a thick Lymph, which if it could be render'd fluid, would prevent any further Concretions of this Sort ; and to this End I made use of my Remedy : The Consequence was, that all my Symptoms ceased, and I was cured, having from that Time to this felt not the least Touch of my Complaint. 'Tis true indeed, that at certain Seasons I take a few Doses of the Medicine, which I believe secures me against a Relapse.

I am the first to whom I ever administred this Remedy in such a Case ; but I am not the last : I have given it since to many Persons under the like Complaints, and always with good Success. It is not less efficacious in Retentions of Urine from a viscous Jelly. *M. le Baron de Chainaye Nisar* has experienced it to his Satisfaction. For four Years together he could not make Water without the most exquisite Pain, and great Striving : He took this Remedy, and in a short Time he urin'd with a full Stream, without any Pain at all : He look'd upon the good Success of the Medicine as a Prodigy, having try'd a great Number of other Things
to

to no purpose. He return'd Home overjoy'd, and took a good Stock of the Pills with him the last Autumn 1723. *M. le Chevalier de Morete* could make no Water for five Days together without the Assistance of my dear Friend *M. Ciconigni*, and two other Physicians of great Note: That Gentleman had the Humanity for his Patient, to desire him to send for me: He took my Remedy, and made Water that same Day.

I have a fresh Case of the like Nature, where the same Remedy was given with the same Success. But these Narratives lead me too far out of the Way; so I shall suppress this with many others, notwithstanding a Number of Instances carry along with them the Merit of persuading; for a single Cure might be imputed to mere Chance.

It appears then that crude Mercury is serviceable in the Gravel, that it brings it away, and prevents stony Concretions by destroying the Viscosity of the Lymph, which conglutinates the tartareous Particles of the Blood.

These Viscosities occasion much the same Symptoms as the Stone itself, and if they do not produce so exquisite Pains, they are however frequently attended with a Suppression of Urine, by stuffing up the Tubes which should convey it into the Bladder: In such a Case, as well as in many others, Mercury by the Rotundity of its Particles, and its Motion, is capable of breaking, dividing, dispersing, and consequently subtilising and destroying the Coagulation of the Lymph, and that with great Speed; and at the same time it blunts the Points of the Acids, and forces them to let go whatsoever they are connected with; thus every Thing is restored to its natural Figure.

Me. Campagnole, Hostess of the *Woman without a Head*, one of the most noted Houses of Entertainment in *Turin*, is subject to a cruel Cholick; this Disease has reduced her to the last Extremity for these three Years. In 1722 she was seiz'd with this Malady in the middle of the Night. I living in the Neighbourhood, she sent for me: I found her in a deplorable Condition,

dition, and gave her a double Dose of my Mercury ; soon after, her tormenting Pains ceased, and before Morning she voided by Stool a Pail full of Excrements and Water : The next Day she voided another Pail full of Water, and so was entirely freed of her Complaint to her very great Surprize : For in the last Fit before this she was tortured a whole Month between Pains and Remedies, yet this Medicine made all quiet in a few Minutes after it was taken.

The prodigious and hasty Evacuation in this Case, was the Effect of Purgatives, but Mercury had its share in contributing to it, by breaking the Humours, and rendering them more fluid, and fit to be discharged. This Woman had all the lower Belly stuffed with viscous and acid Humours, which occasion'd a Tension and Irritation in the Intestines. The Peristaltick Motion of the Guts was weaken'd and deprav'd, which nothing could better re-establish than Mercury, by the rolling Motion of its Particles : It at the same Time blunted the Points of the Acids which had occasion'd convulsive Twitchings in the Parts : And the Crispation of the Fibres being removed, the several Matters contain'd within the Guts, did naturally take the Road of the *Anus*, following the Mercury, which by its own proper Weight is ever determin'd downwards.

Mercury when it is receiv'd into the Stomach, is blended with whatever it meets with there, and as the lacteal Vessels imbibe whatever is subtil enough to enter their Orifices, the more volatile Part of the Mercury is taken up by them, and convey'd into the Blood, which it renders more fluid and soft ; and what remains in the Intestines, takes downwards, and pursues the Course of the Purgatives ; opening and subtilising the Acids and Viscosities which it meets with in the Way, and carrying off whatever is vicious, or unserviceable to the Oeconomy, without meddling with any Thing good or necessary : That this is Truth, appears from the Patient's being not in the least weaken'd or discompos'd by these immense Evacuations.

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In 1710, one *M. de la Pierre*, Governor to a *German* Lord who was at *Hodemie*, but whose Name I cannot remember, had an inveterate Itch which eluded the Force of all the Medicines he could hear of in *France* and *Holland*. He took of my Mercury, and without the Assistance of any other Remedy, he was perfectly cured in three Weeks: He went away very well satisfied, and the next Year he wrote to me to send him the Medicine to the *Hague*, one of his Friends being under the same Misfortune.

M. Carret, my very good Friend, Commissary of War in the Armies and Hospitals of *France*, who had the Superintendency of the Hospital of *Oulx*, at the same Time that I was Surgeon Major of the same Hospital, being at *Valence* on the *Po* in 1710, was afflicted with an ill-favour'd red Tetter, which spread over half his Face, and was elevated above the Surface of the Skin the Thickness of a Finger.

Several Remedies were recommended to him, which he refused, saying, I shall go shortly to *Turin*, where my Friend *Belloste* has a Medicine that will infallibly do the Business.

He came to me as soon as conveniently as he could, and I gave him my Mercury; which was so speedily effectual, that he perceived himself sensibly amended after the first Dose; after the second the Tetter was apparently diminished, and after the fourth it was hardly to be discern'd. However he continued the Use of it; but after the fifth Dose, there was not the least Footstep of it remaining: He is now at *Paris*, and is ready to witness to the Truth of what I write.

The same Thing happen'd with no less Expedition to *M. le Comte d'Argue*, a *Bavarian* Gentleman. As he was returning from *France*, where he had been for his Health, he was seiz'd in *Savoy*, with Pains in his Shoulders, and a large Parcel of Pustules which cover'd his whole Face, and render'd it extremely deform'd; this was in 1723: He sent for the very learned *M. Cigognini* to advise with him, whether it would be better to put himself under a Course of Medicine at *Turin*, or to

to return to *France*. Our judicious Physician recommended Me, and my Remedy, which he thought sufficient to extricate him from the Difficulty he labour'd under: After twice taking it, he found his Pains were abated, and his Pustules shrunk up; and after the fourth Dose they all disappear'd, to his great Astonishment, who thought it no less than a Prodigy. He continued the Repetition of it some short Time, and stock'd himself with a good Quantity when he went away.

The speedy Dispatch the Mercury made with this tumify'd *Teter*, is an undeniable Proof of its mixing with the Lymph. It operates in the same manner in *Teters*, Itch, and Pimples of the Face, and other Parts of the Body, as it does in schirrhous Tumours, *Scrophula's*, *Carcinoma's*, *Wenns*, &c. it removes the Stoppage of the Glands, by destroying the Acids which caus'd it; and the Lymph conveying it to the Pores of the Skin, its volatile Particles fly off with Rapidity by insensible Perspiration; and rubbing against the Acids which lurk in the cuticular Pores, they carry them away with them. Thus are the fibrous *Mamillæ*, which were before compress'd and render'd inactive, restor'd to their pristine Form, Elasticity, and Office: The Skin grows clear, and the Orifices being unlock'd, Perspiration goes on as before.

Although the Disorders, which I have described, were attended with Variety of Symptoms, yet were they all produc'd from the same Cause. The softer Preparations of Mercury, as *Ethiops Mineralis*, and the Powder of *Algaroth*, are serviceable in external Application, as they exhaust the Acids, open the Skin, and so work a Cure. But a Salivation would in all Likelihood ensue, should any of the acid Particles, when blended with the Mercury, re-enter into the Road of Circulation: This makes me affirm that crude Mercury taken by the Mouth, is more effectual, certain, and expeditious.

In 1719, my Adjutant's Son in the Hospital of *Bri-ançon* was sent me to *Turin*, afflicted with an universal Leprosy; his Head was in a sad Condition, and his whole Body covered with white Scales: I shew'd him in

in these Circumstances to some of my Brethren, one of which was M. *Calcan*, Master Collegiate Surgeon, who enter'd upon the Office of *Syndic*, since I was made *Prior* of the new College founded by the King.

I kept him in my House, and he eat at my Table without any Distinction: he was not confined to his Bed or Chamber: He took a Pill every other Evening towards Bed-time. At six Weeks End I shew'd him to the same Gentleman, with his Head and Neck clean as a Pearl, and perfectly cured; tho' he walk'd abroad, all the City over, every Day during his Course.

The Leprosy and Pox are Sisters, and of the same Parentage, according to the Opinions of most learned Men. Mercury has at all Times been acknowledg'd for the Specifick in such Diseases, since it was first discovered and administred. It has certainly an absolute Power over these Ferments: The more desperate the Case, the more Vigour does the Remedy exert to destroy it: They are a kind of *Hydra's* which this *Hercules* delights to quell. 'Twere needless to illustrate its mechanical Operation upon these Poisons: It is well known and visible enough, and can never be called in Question. This was the first Leper I ever had under my Care: This Disease tho' so very formidable, gives way to Mercury rightly prepared, as ready as the slightest of them all.

In 1721, I was commanded by her Royal Highness to attend *Madam la Comtesse Busquet* in the City of *Equiere*, who had been confined to her Bed for four Months by a violent and painful *Sciatica*. She could not stir in the least, without giving herself mortal Agonies, in spite of all the Care and Skill of her Physician M. *Gose*. This Lady being constrain'd to void her Excrements under her, there was Danger that a Mortification might seize her hinder Parts; wherefore without delay I propos'd to her Physician the Use of my Mercury, which he very readily came into.

She had not taken above three Doses, before the Violence of her Pain was over; and after the fourth, she felt no more of it; After the seventh she left her Bed,

Bed, and began to walk: The Abundance of Phlegm which this Medicine discharged by the first Doses, surprized both the Patient, and her Physician. The Patient wonder'd that she felt an Abatement of her Misery in Proportion to the Evacuation, which did not in the least weaken her; and the Physician was at a loss to account for such extraordinary Success, otherwise than by Enchantment; which occasion'd him to express his Surprize to me in a Letter full of Respect and Esteem. The Letter was read to her Royal Highness by my dear Friend M. Ciconigni, who was himself not a little transported at the speedy and salutary Effect of so simple a Remedy, as well as at the tender and obliging Expressions of the Patient and the Physician.

The Gout in its Infancy, the Rheumatism, the *Sciatica*, and all Diseases of this Nature, are to be cured by swallowing crude Mercury, as frequent Experience has assur'd me on many Occasions: They are all of the same Nature, tho' they pass under different Names, and affect different Parts of the Body: As one Cause produces them, so will one Remedy destroy them; and by that very kind of Mechanism which I illustrated, when I spoke of Percussion, Friction, Shaking, Dislodging, and taking off the Points of Acids.

The expeditious Action of Mercury on such minute Bodies cannot, in my Opinion, be otherwise accounted for; since nothing has so quick a Passage into the Blood, nor is convey'd so soon to the Parts afflicted; this happening several Times in the Space of a natural Day. On this Score it comes to pass, that what it has begun in its first Frictions, it finishes in its subsequent ones. I grant that it goes off in Perspiration, and escapes partly by Stool; but then by repeating the Dose, the Operation is continued on without Interruption; otherwise the Acids which take up their Residence in the Pores and Membranes could not be dislodged, and broken to Pieces, as it happens in *Sciatica's* and Rheumatisms; their Points standing on end, and being no ways interwoven with any Substance that can screen or defend them; when the nutritious Juice, comes loaden
with

with Mercury to the Membranes penetrated, and as it were larded with these sharp keen *Spiculæ*, the small round Particles of the Mercury expand themselves over the Membranes, and being of a requisite Solidity, do by their rolling Motion, shock, tear to Pieces, and destroy the aforesaid Points, which afterwards regurgitate into the Veins. I can find no other Idea of the speedy Termination of this sort of Diseases: Those who have an Understanding more extended than mine, may possibly give a more rational Account of the Matter.

The Wife of M. *Ressant*, a Bookseller in *Turin*, aged about 33, was sent to her Husband from *Briançon*, under a Complication of Diseases. She had been under the Management of the best Physicians in *Briançon* for four Years. Among other Complaints, she had a small Fever, a Difficulty of Breathing, a Pain in her Stomach, a very stinking Breath, a sorry Complexion, and a monstrous Swelling of her right Thigh and Leg; for which last Malady she had used divers Sorts of mineral Waters without any Benefit, both by way of Baths and Fomentations; in a Word, she was pronounc'd incurable. Her Husband finding her in so miserable a Condition, had so much Confidence in me as to commit her to my Conduct; and indeed it was with some Reluctance that I undertook this chronical Disorder.

However, having been convinced by a great deal of Experience, that in these desperate Cases especially, Mercury gives Proof of its Force, Virtue, and Superiority above all other Medicines; I no longer remain'd in suspense, but gave her my Remedy without any other Preparation.

The first Doses had some comfortable Effects upon her; most of her Symptoms ceased; her Pulse was much mended, the Pain of her Stomach and the stinking Breath were no longer perceiv'd; the Thigh and Leg were less pained, and their Size was somewhat abated. Thus she went on for sixteen Doses, when her *Menses* oblig'd her to desist; which, when they were over, she resum'd her Medicine, and without any Conflict was this formidable Coagulation of Humours dissolved;

solv'd; and the Liquors recover'd their Fluidity after two and forty Doses of the Mercury. The Thigh and Leg grew supple, the coagulated Matter now made fluid, returning with the Mercury into the Blood: In short, in the Month of *May* the present Year 1724, the Mercury had the Effect of Frictions on this Patient; it excited a Salivation; with this Difference, that it was so exceeding mild as scarcely to warm the Mouth: This was the only Time I ever knew it produce such a Consequence, tho' I have given it above six Months together.

Here is sufficient room to admire the salutary Effects of Mercury, which one way or other will infallibly destroy every Thing that is capable of afflicting the Body.

To enter rightly into the mechanical *Rationale* of this Matter, it should be observ'd that in the Disorder of the Thigh and Leg, there was no Extravasation. The coagulated Liquors were entirely contain'd within the Glands, and the external Vessels: A Proof of which is, that notwithstanding the Size of those Parts, the Patient could still walk; the organical Parts being unaffected. The Weight and the Pain which the Tension occasion'd, were what chiefly incommoded her.

A Dissolution being once made in the Vessels and the Glands, it is natural enough that the Liquor, having recover'd its Fluidity, should re-enter the Vessels, mix with the other Fluids, and pursue the Course of Circulation.

But the subtile Parts of the Mercury being intimately mix'd with what was dissolv'd, caused those Fluids to ascend upwards, so that they were receiv'd by the Vessels of the Throat, which became distended therewith, and the Orifices of the Salivary Canals were strained and dilated, and afforded a Passage to the separated Humours; and then the Thigh and Leg diminished considerably.

This salutary Flux lasted about eight Days, and re-establish'd the Gentlewoman in such a Condition of Health as surpriz'd her: She is now actually under my
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Management, and I hope to reduce her Thigh and Leg to their natural State.

If crude Mercury did imbibe Acids, as many Persons have fancied, it must in this Case have been sufficiently stock'd with them, to have made Havock with the inward Parts of the Mouth in the Discharge; whereas nothing more was perceiv'd than a small Heat. In these Diseases the morbifick Particles are not so pungent, keen, and corrosive, as the Acids in Venereal Cases are, which make the Bones carious, and eat away the Flesh, without any Assistance from the Admixture of other Matters.

The thick viscous Matter which nourishes the Hair, being abundantly increased through the Obstructions form'd in the Skin where it is planted, caused it to grow in such Plenty, that the whole Leg and Thigh were perfectly cover'd therewith: On which Score I look upon the Malady of these Parts to have arisen from an exceedingly tenacious Viscosity, stagnating in the capillary Vessels and Glands of the Skin, which being inconceivably numerous, at last form'd so considerable a Substance.

It may then be taken for granted, that Mercury, sooner or later, penetrates into, and breaks the Connexion of these Matters; that it disengages them from the Acids which embarrasses them, and so restores them to their original Fluidity.

If we consider attentively, what Mercury has done in one Cure, we shall be able to judge of its Effects in all others, though of a different Kind; and we must esteem it the Favourite of Nature, which in such a Variety of Operations and Productions, acts by the same mechanical Laws. I have remark'd also from the Effects which Mercury produces in so many different Subjects and Diseases, that its Way of acting is constantly one and the same: As Nature is inimitable in her Works, so is Mercury in its Operations.

I have at this Time under my Care, Diseases that are inveterate and of very difficult Cure. I administer this same Remedy in them all; and from the Day I

begin with it, I form Hopes of a favourable Issue, tho' it may be some Years first: However, all the known and usual Means have been already apply'd to no Purpose.

Respect forbids me to name one of my Patients, and some others Discretion will oblige me to conceal. But let the Reader judge of what may be done from what has been done: The Cures already related have their Merit, and those I shall relate hereafter will have no less. And now I think I have said enough to give an Idea of the Effects of this admirable Remedy.

The first Wife of M. *Rousseau*, in 1712, was afflicted for near four Months together with several Disorders. She was visited by many of our Physicians, who after they had carefully examin'd her Symptoms, were of Opinion, that a *Solium* had brought her into a Consumption; and this because she vomited constantly every Day, a little while after she had eaten. These Gentlemen agreed that my Mercury was the only Medicine which could be of Benefit to her.

The very first Dose took off her Vomiting, and the rest, which were twelve in all, entirely recover'd her.

Cases often occur, where 'tis next to impossible that a Physician of the greatest Capacity, should not be mistaken. A Girl who wove Hair for my Perriwig-Maker in 1712, being about 15 or 16 Years old, was for three Weeks together blooded and purged, besides other Remedies and Operations, and all to so little Purpose, that at last she was seiz'd with a violent and frequent Hick-up, which prevented her from swallowing or retaining any Thing in her Stomach. Her Physician took his Leave of her, and desired her Mother to send for a Priest to give her the Sacraments. In this Conjuncture M. *de la Touche* came to me and desired me to see the Girl. I did so, and after examining her, and feeling her Pulse, I thought I perceiv'd in her Eyes some Symptoms of Worms. I took M. *de la Touche* Home along with me, and deliver'd to him a Dose of my Mercury, with Directions to give it her by Degrees, in four small Pills, with a little Wine, and
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that forthwith. The first Parcel she took stopp'd the Hick-up, and she swallow'd the others with Ease; a little after which she vomited up a Worm as thick as one's Finger, and half an Ell long, with a big Head: The Persons who were about her, to my great Vexation, threw it into the House of Office: She was perfectly cured in a few Days.

Many Physicians look upon Worms of the Body with a kind of Indifference: They'll tell you, they are domestick Animals, and serviceable in consuming certain Superfluities in our Bodies.

But after all, the more they multiply, and the more they increase in Bulk, the more Nourishment they do require. If in such Cases a slender Diet should be enjoin'd, they would entirely consume it; and if that were too little to suffice them, they would prey upon the Parts wherein they are contain'd.

All these Things consider'd, it cannot be deny'd that 'tis best to prevent their Increase, and to get rid of them as soon as may be, and drive out of the Intestines such Harbingers of Corruption as are nourish'd at our Expence, and whose Lives will be productive of our Death.

Worms of the Stomach and Intestines are destroy'd by Mercury; 'tis to them a downright Poison: It not only kills them, but destroys the very Seeds of them too: This all agree to, who have written of Mercury; and Experience vouches for the Truth of it.

Almost every Thing is full of Worms: Our Food abounds with them; their Seeds get into our Bodies a Multitude of Ways. They float in the Blood and other Liquors, in all Ages, Sexes, and Constitutions. They devour indifferently what they meet with, be it good or bad. But the *Solium* feeds on nothing but Chyle; and therefore a Consumption is inevitable where this Creature resides.

The Worms of the Stomach and Guts deposite Seed and Excrements, which mixing with the Chyle are carried into the Blood, causing Fevers of an uncommon Nature, whether by Corruption, or by the Coagulation

which their Acrimony occasions in the Blood.

In all these Cases, I believe there is nothing which answers the End better than Mercury, on account of its separating from the Blood, and carrying away along with it whatsoever is noxious: It promotes Perspiration, and by its Percussion, and the Rotundity of its Particles, dissolves, separates, and subtilises all manner of Coagulations, which may be reckon'd the Source of most Fevers, besides many other Disorders.

In short, be they Worms, a wrong Use of natural Things, or an ill chosen Food, that have introduced into the Blood such Particles, as are apt to excite febrile Fermentations there; or if an Effervescence be kindled up in the Blood for want of due Perspiration; Mercury overcomes all. When Mercury is well kill'd, and its Parts are divided as much as possible; and in this Condition is convey'd into the Stomach, it is suck'd up, and as it were devour'd by the lacteal Veins, and convey'd into the Mass of Blood.

Mr. *Lewenhoeck* has observ'd, that the Blood consists of globular Particles; and so likewise does Mercury: Wherefore 'twere impossible they should enter into such Contract with each other, as to be link'd together; for the Globules of Mercury are extremely smooth.

The Motion of the Blood, and of the Lymph that accompanies it, causes these small Globules to strike one against another; by which Shock reiterated, all the Particles both of the Mercury and the Blood are broken, separated, and multiplied to Infinity: 'Tis by such a manner of acting, that the Coagulations of the Blood are destroy'd; that they become more subtle and fluid, and are less dispos'd to obstruct and embarrass one another as they move in the smallest Vessels: The Globules of Mercury united with the Lymph, being exceeding smooth, and containing, in proportion to their Bulk, a very large Quantity of Matter, do insinuate themselves into all Places where the Rapidity of their Motion carries them; forcing all Obstacles which oppose their Course, and dispersing every Thing
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that is unnaturally united ; which by the Motion it receives from it, is hindered from reuniting, and thus it is hurried away to some or all of the Emunctories, according to the Inclination of Nature, or the Disposition of the Subject.

These Particles being, as I said before, united with the Lymph, render it more fluid, penetrating, active, sweet, and balsamick, and by Consequence more fit to encrease the nutritious Juice in the several Parts of the Body, and more proper to repair the Losses it has undergone through the Violence of Diseases ; taking away at the same Time, the fatal Causes which produced them.

If what I have observ'd of Mercury be true, it must be acknowledged, that it has in it nothing that is corrosive or vicious : If it be capable at any Time of assuming such Qualities, it must be when it is divested of its natural Figure and Motion.

It must therefore be the Violence of Fire, which altering the Figure and Motion of Mercury, wherein consists its Force and Virtue, renders it corrosive ; which is the Case when it is incorporated with Salt and Vitriol to make corrosive Sublimate.

If Mercury may be judg'd of from its Effects, surely crude Mercury has the best Title to be call'd *Mercurius dulcis* ; for that which is prepared with Fire, and goes by that Name, is capable of uniting with Acids in the Body, and thereby forming an Acid. So that not to incur the Danger of raising a painful Salivation, it must be given but in small Quantities, and that seldom : I have been a Witness to the terrible Consequences of it upon a Lady of Distinction, who fell a Sacrifice to the Remedy and her own Opinion.

When crude Mercury enters into the Body by Frictions or Fumigations, it mixes with the Lymph ; but then it penetrates also into the Veins and Arteries.

Such a Collection of globular Corpuscles striking against the arterial Blood with a Direction contrary to the Course of it, acts upon it in the Manner of a Bank or Dam.

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If the Blood and Spirits yield to such a Shock, their Motion must of Necessity be much weaken'd, and even suppress'd as far as the Friction extends; so that they will inevitably stand still, or move backwards: This Conflict can be of no Service to the Patient, but must produce such Symptoms as always attend an impeded Circulation: I have beheld too many Instances of such sad Cases. If it enters the Pores of the small nervous Fibres which terminate at the Skin, it will by its Volatility penetrate into the Trunks of the Nerves, and oppose the Course of the animal Spirits, thereby occasioning a Palsy.

These Effects are not produced by Mercury, as crude Mercury: 'Tis the Manner of applying it which causes it to oppose the Course of the animal Spirits, and occasions these Extravagancies, besides many more which I forbear to name.

'Tis plain then, that there is a Difference between transmitting crude Mercury through the Pores of the Skin, and giving it at the Mouth at certain Intervals; for in this latter Way, it intimately mixes with what it finds in the Stomach and Chyle; it enters the Blood, it associates with the Lymph, it follows the natural and voluntary Motion of it, it facilitates its Course, and enlivens its Motion, it renders it more fluid, subtile, and fit to pass: It destroys the Obstacles which oppose its Passage, and then uniting with it, they penetrate every where: All this is brought about with the utmost Gentleness and Expedition, without Constraint, Agitation, or Tumult; and yet its Operations are divine and surprizing.

Acid Spirits injected into the Veins, occasion terrible Symptoms, yet they are serviceable when taken in by the Mouth.

The Viper, which by sending its Poison into the Blood through a Puncture of the Skin, excites such fatal Symptoms, is of no ill Consequence if eaten, but on the contrary is corrected and render'd wholesome by the Ferment of the Stomach.

Some Persons have taken upon them to run down
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the Use of crude Mercury, and render it odious, by bringing upon the Stage the Accidents which attend the Workers in mercurial Mines.

Mr. *Lemery* is of Opinion, that the Palsy which sometimes attacks these People, is produced from the Sulphurs which arise from the Mercury; which entering the Pores, do fix in the Nerves, and cause this cold Disease, by stopping up the Passage of the animal Spirits.

If his Notion is right, there is then great Reason indeed to apprehend bad Consequences from Frictions and Fumigations.

It is not absurd to believe that those Workmen, being continually surrounded with the volatile Vapours of Mercury, do suck them in with the Air at their Nostrils; presently after which they are elevated 'till they meet with Opposition from the internal convex Part of the *Cranium*, being not able to penetrate or pass through its Pores, and then they fall down again, like Water in a boiling Pot, when stopp'd by the Lid. These Vapours having at length acquir'd a Bulk, the small Globules drop down again by their own proper Weight towards the *Basis* of the *Cranium*, compress the Nerves in their Origin, and so produce the Palsy. The same Thing happens to *Gilders* for the same Reason, but more frequently; for they make Use of Mercury over a Fire, which elevates it more easily, so that they breathe in the very Substance of it.

Thus it appears, that this is not the Effect of any ill Quality of Mercury, but an Accident produced by the Compression of another Body.

At the Time that I was Surgeon-Major of the Hospitals of *Briançon* and *Oulx*, we had at a favourable Season of the Year, many pocky Patients confin'd to the Use of the Grand Remedies; they were close lock'd up in their several Cells Day and Night. I could not observe that the Boys who were appointed to attend them, and who constantly slept with them, did ever receive the least Inconvenience by breathing in the mercurial Vapours.

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I had a Captain under my Care at *Briançon* in a *Volvulus*, whom I prevail'd upon to swallow down two Pounds of crude Mercury, which remain'd six whole Days in his Body, without doing him any manner of Harm : And it is observable, that such Persons as have leaden Balls lying in their Limbs for many Years, and often for their whole Lives, never feel any Inconveniencies on that Score.

But after all this, to set about to convince Mankind that crude Mercury is no ways mischievous, is not an easy Task. Many believe it a corrosive Poison ; they'll tell you, it is the Cause of Ulcers of the Throat in Salivations ; and if they speak so favourably of it, as to grant that it is not corrosive of itself, yet will they maintain that it becomes so when blended with the venereal Acids : This Opinion has been receiv'd and advanc'd by very famous Authors.

I think however, that the contrary Opinion may easily be supported by the Help of a little Reflexion, provided Prejudice be absolutely set aside.

The Ulcers which afflict the Throat in Persons under Salivations, proceed, according to the Notion I have of the Matter, from the Acids contain'd in the pocky Ferment : Mercury shocks it, dislodges it, sets it in Motion, and conveys it along with the Lymph, 'till it has procur'd it some favourable Issue by the Way of a *Crisis* ; sometimes by the Mouth, at other Times by Stool, Urine or Perspiration.

It must be consider'd, that in Salivations the acrimonious and corrosive Acids of the *Virus*, which were distributed throughout the whole Mass of Fluids ; as likewise those which were congested in Nodes, Pustules, Glands, Cancers, or Ulcers, are all convey'd and conducted, by their several Tubes, into the salivary Canals, so that they may be discharged at the Mouth ; in which consists a Salivation. These being thus reunited, and passing all through the same Place, 'tis natural enough that they should make Impressions on it, and that such delicate Parts as the Throat and the Mouth, should be lacerated, cut and ulcerated by
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the Quantity of these keen, sharp, and corrosive little Bodies, without the Mercury's having any Share in the Matter, more than that of having set them in Motion, in order to the obtaining their Discharge.

Mercury, when sent into the Body by Friction, gives to Part of the Liquors a different Turn from what they had before, as I have already remark'd: This Stroke of Retrogradation, which acts from the Circumference towards the Centre, subtilises the Lymph, elevates it upwards, gives it a violent and rapid Motion, and determines it towards the Head and Throat, which becomes swoln by such an Amassment of Lymph pour'd in upon it from almost all Parts of the Body; and it being too much to be contain'd in the Cavities of the Vessels, the Orifices of the salivary Vessels are by the Effort of an irresistible Tension, open and dilated, and so yield a Passage to this Abundance of the lymphatick Humour. But the Mercury having not circulated according to the natural Course of the Lymph, having only been elevated together with it, it is impossible that it should by any rolling Motion, break or destroy the Points of the Acids, which passing by the Throat and Mouth in an unalter'd Condition, do there occasion very troublesome and painful Ulcers and Lacerations.

The only Motion which the Lymph and Mercury have on this Occasion, is a simple Sublimation upwards, which stops there; so that should the salivary Canals be obstinately occluded, the Patient must be suffocated. It appears then, that in such a Conjunction, the Mercury and Lymph are as it were in a State of Rest; that the subsequent Evacuation, and the running off of the Lymph and Mercury makes no Alteration in the Order of their Situation; the Action, though violent, terminates at the Throat. If Mercury destroys the Points of Acids, it must roll along and circulate peaceably with them, by a continued and reiterated Motion; which cannot be brought about by Frictions and Fumigations, nor by any Preparation of Mercury, be it what it will. When the *Crisis* after Frictions is determin'd by Stool

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or Urine, the Mercury would make fine Work if join'd with Acids; Ulcers of the *Anus*, Bladder, and *Urethra*, would be the inevitable Consequences of such a Union, which however do never happen.

If crude Mercury were capable of uniting with Acids, bad Symptoms would appear after Frictions, by which so large a Quantity is made to enter the Body. Those to whom I have given it by the Mouth for above six Months together, as in scrophulous Cases, where Acids abound in extraordinary Cases, would, if such a Union were possible, have undoubtedly been sensible of some Irritation, Heat, or Excoriation; and yet I never heard them complain of any such Things.

Mercury, in order to its being sublimated, must be in a State of Rest, so that the Fire which is under it, may lay hold on its round Particles in order to raise them aloft together with itself, which is the Case with Mercury as made use of by Gilders.

When crude Mercury is taken by the Mouth in Pills, although its Particles are exceedingly subtile and divided, notwithstanding the Purgatives with which it is mixed, it is very speedily communicated to the Liquors, it swims in a Fluid, and is in perpetual Motion; on which Score it cannot be sublimed: The Warmth of the Body is a Spur to it, animates and increases its Motion, and causes it to penetrate every where; it never quits the Liquors with which it is mix'd, but in getting to the Emunctories.

Men of very great Skill, who have no consummate Knowledge of Mercury, are of Opinion, that some Pounds of it may be taken at the Mouth, as in a *Volvulus*, without occasioning any ill Consequence; but that it is very dangerous to take only a few Drams of it, because that then it may sublime by the Heat of the Body: This Opinion has been receiv'd by a great Number of Persons, and yet nothing can be more false.

M. le Duc, a Physician, whom I mention'd before, observ'd at *Smyrna*, that most of the Women that were desirous of looking handsome, fresh, and in good Plight,

Plight, did frequently swallow two Drams of crude Mercury without any Mixture.

When some Pounds of it are swallow'd, if it meets with no Stop in the Intestines, it quickly passes through, retaining the same Weight it had when it was taken. When it is swallowed in a small Quantity, it remains a longer time in the Body, it shocks, detaches, breaks, and drives into the Intestines whatsoever it meets with in the Stomach, that is greasy, slimy, viscous, acrid and acid: It acts in the same Manner in the Intestines, mixes with the Substances, and rolls along with them, so that it cannot be sublimed, but escapes out just the same as it was taken in, carrying along with it whatever is capable of rendering the Blood acrimonious, altering the Ferments of the Stomach, or causing a bad Digestion.

It appears then, that great Advantages may be obtained from the Use of it, and that those Persons are very much in the Wrong who conceive Prejudice against it; such a one, and such a one, they say, were attack'd with such Complaints upon the Use of it, therefore 'tis undoubtedly bad and dangerous: And some there are who are frighted out of their Wits at the very Name of it; and would give themselves over for poisoned, should the least Quantity of it enter their Bodles.

This Error is receiv'd and cherish'd by a Set of prejudiced Persons, who though otherwise well qualified, judge and determine concerning the Effects of Mercury, without distinguishing as to the best and worst Manner of using it; which notwithstanding makes a very considerable Difference.

If what has been said above, and what shall be said hereafter, be consider'd with a little Attention, it will appear that Mercury ought to be taken by the Mouth, just as Providence has given it us, if we would feel the Benefit of it; or mix'd with gentle Purgatives.

That all the extravagant Effects of it in Frictions and Fumigations, are produc'd no otherwise than by an unnatural Motion which it gives to the Spirits and Liquors, as I have already explained.

That it can at no Time become corrosive, but when the Action of Fire causes it to lose its Form and Motion; for then it may be link'd and loaded with Acids, and constitute by such a Mixture, a Sort of Sublimate.

Tho' crude Mercury is infinitely divisible, yet its most subtile Parts, even in Vapour, do ever retain the Rotundity of their Figure; they can never, without the Violence of Fire, become pointed, hooked, or keen; therefore they can neither hook, or be hooked, as long as they retain their spherical Figure, and continue, as they always do, smooth and polite; and the Heat of the Body is not sufficient to produce any Alteration on even the most fine and subtile of its Parts.

In the Ebullition and Fermentation which it undergoes when it is mixed with, and wrought upon by Spirit of *Nitre*, *Aqua fortis*, and other Spirits, its Parts are only divided and render'd imperceptible, their spherical Figure is no ways destroy'd; a Proof of which is, that these Spirits are soften'd by the Mixture, and render'd less pungent and corrosive; which shews that crude Mercury may be with great Justice called *Mercurius dulcis*.

I might satisfy myself with relating the salutary Effects which crude Mercury has produced within my Knowledge, without giving myself the Trouble of explaining the Mechanism of its Action, in which 'tis like I may succeed but poorly, having no chymical Principles to guide me, but laying down, according to mere Nature, what has occur'd to my Conception. However, I was of Opinion, that by shewing in what Manner it acts in the Body, I might dispel the Fears that have been rais'd of it, so that it might no longer be taken for a Poison, but for the most gentle and sovereign of all Remedies. Thus I do my utmost in the Justification of Mercury; and to make it appear, that it is a Friend to Nature, and a capital Enemy to Diseases, and all Kinds of Corruption; that by an admirable Mechanism, without incorporating, or being confounded with them, it dissolves, absorbs, spoils, drives out, destroys and corrects all vicious and heterogeneous Matters; that
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not only taken by the Mouth, but born externally, its Emanations are capable of securing the Body against malignant and infectious Air, of what Kind soever it be, without Exception.

All Authors who have writ of the Pestilence, believe its Cause to be a Coagulation of the Blood ; if this Opinion be true, what Remedy can be more proper, than crude Mercury ?

M. le Begue, in his Treatise on the Pestilence of *Marseilles*, says, that it has its Original from a Multitude of the Eggs of Worms which infect the *Saliva*, the Food, the Chyle, the nervous Juice, and finally, the solid Parts ; that the Heat of the Stomach hatches these Eggs, and then the young Worms do greedily devour a good Part of the Aliments, by which they increase to a certain Size ; and that then they excite the first Symptoms of the Pestilence.

These Worms are carried along with the Chyle, into the Blood, where they hinder Circulation.

According to this System, nothing can be more proper to destroy these Worms, together with their Seeds, than Mercury. In a Translation of *J. James Scheuchen*, he proposes *Ethiops Mineralis*, a Preparation of Mercury, in the Pestilence : He says, that according to the famous Mr. Boyle, the Pestilence seldom attacks Persons who live in the Neighbourhood of Mercurial Mines. Upon Consideration that Mercury is extremely volatile, and that it transpires more than any other Metal, I am of Opinion that a Body prepar'd with my Mercury, or some other like it, provided it also carried about it little Bags of Mercury on the *Sternum*, and near the Emunctories, would be defended from infectious Air by the Atmosphere of mercurial Vapour surrounding it : If we examine well into the Matter, this is no other than one Vapour, or one Air overpowering another.

If there are Eggs in the Case, as in all Appearance there are, they must be round, as well as the volatile Particles of the Mercury, and so they cannot unite, or be link'd together ; notwithstanding the Globules of

the Mercury are capable of destroying or driving out those of the Worms. In the Collision of these small spherical Bodies, those of the Mercury having the greatest Solidity, must break in Pieces or dissipate the others.

Those who approve not of these Reasons, may have recourse to Antipathy, and then they'll be sure to meet meet with Matter enough to employ their Wits upon.

These mercurial Vapours do likewise keep at a Distance from the Body the contagious Particles of the Small-Pox. I know several Persons who make use of no other Preservative: Why then may it not have the same Effect on the pestilential Vapour? They differ but in regard to more or less.

The *Arabian* Physicians have confounded these two Diseases together, and many others have followed their Opinion. A great Number of Authors have fix'd the Cause of the Small-Pox to a Heap of the Eggs of Worms hatch'd in the Body, sometimes sooner, sometimes later; that the Pustles are full of these little Worms, which gnaw away the Skin, and so leave their Marks behind them; that these Eruptions are analogous to those of the Pestilence; that the perspired Matter in these Patients is sour, and so is their Breath, which smells of Worms, and is, strictly speaking, no other than the Seeds of Worms, which communicates the Disease to all Persons that are near, and which, from the Quality of their Ferments, are disposed to hatch.

This System, which carries with it greater Probability than any other which has been advanced upon the Subject, authorises the Use of Mercury, as an internal Specific, and as a Preservative, when worn on the Surface of the Body.

A most illustrious Sovereign Prince has worn it about him more than fifty Years, to preserve him from this Disease: He is now above Fourscore, and never had it.

I always wear Mercury about me: I am an old Man, yet never had the Disease: I observe, that Mr. *Lemery* recommends it in his Chymistry.

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These two Diseases are not the only ones which Worms produce: Many learned Men believe, that Shingles, Tetter, Itch, Scald-head, and almost all Diseases of the Skin, arise from Worms, or the Seeds of Worms, as well as malignant Fevers. According to *Nicholas Hartsocker*, the Pestilence, venereal Maladies, and all Manner of epidemical Diseases are occasion'd by Worms, which will certainly devour the Subject, unless some specifick Remedy intervenes. Nothing is then more proper than Mercury, to cure the Pestilence, Small-Pox, and all verminous Diseases, as it destroys the Putrefaction which hatches the Worms, and dissolves the Coagulations which are reckon'd inseperable from these Disorders: *Languors* and Weaknesses are the ordinary Concomitants of epidemical Diseases, than which there cannot be more sensible Marks of Coagulation.

Dissolutions do indeed sometimes accompany these Diseases, but it is very seldom; and it is an easy Matter to distinguish these Causes one from another, by the Symptoms.

Mr. Newton, in a Treatise of the Pestilence printed at *Utrecht*, asserts that Worms are the Cause of the Pestilence, that they fix in Cloaths, Linnen, &c. that they multiply and live a long Tinte; that when one wears such Cloaths, or opens such Packs, &c. as are replete with them, they expand a Sort of little Wings, and by Flying, convey themselves into the internal Parts of the Body.

This Opinion, which to most Men of Learning appears highly probable, shews that the Remedy which I propose is better adapted to the Nature of the Malady, whether Worms, or a Coagulation of the Blood, or both, be its essential Cause, than any other. *Mrs. Chicoineau, Verny, and Soulier*, Physicians deputed by the Court for the Management of the Pestilence at *Marseilles*, are of Opinion, that the Venom of the Pestilence is not, of itself contagious, but only with regard to the Disposition of the Subjects it meets with. Admitting this System to be true, the Remedy which I propose, would suffice to correct such ill Disposi-

tions; and I would not scruple to make use of the Amulet, were it but to delude the Imagination, and to procure a Tranquility, by dissipating the Fears which alone might be sufficient to kindle up the Disease.

These Gentlemen will have it, that the Plague and Small-Pox have a very great Relation to each other, that their Symptoms are nearly the same, that what we call the Master-Pox, is a Sort of *Bubo*, or Carbuncle, that both these Diseases terminate in cuticular Eruptions.

The very judicious and most candid M. *Cicognini* has assured me, that in *Italy*, 'tis usual to wear crude Mercury as a Preservative against noxious Vapours; and that the Women carry it about them to prevent the Jaundice, and its Symptoms.

A Gentleman of Veracity and Distinction told me upon his Oath, that his Mother almost every Month, was afflicted with very severe Attacks of a Jaundice, accompanied with *Deliriums* and Convulsions; and that being one Day in this sad Condition, two Capuchins came to visit her, who sent for some crude Mercury, and hung it in a proper Box on her *Sternum*; upon which her Symptoms vanish'd in a very little while; and she wore it eighteen Months without being afflicted in the like Manner, but having lost it, she relapsed into the same Disorder: That she caused more of the Medicine to be inclosed for her, which she wore all the remaining Part of her Life, without any other Attack.

What Consequence may be drawn from all this? If the mere Vapour of two or three Drams of Mercury be alone sufficient to re-establish a Calm in the whole Œconomy, labouring under Symptoms as bad as those of an Epilepsy, and is able to prevent their Return; what may not be expected from the same Remedy, taken in Substance, being mixed with gentle Purgatives, which encounter with, or evacuate nothing but what is malignant, vicious, and superfluous, without meddling with the wholesome Humours, which is Truth in Effect, notwithstanding it may purge
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more or less according to the Disposition of the Subjects. Mercury fails not to communicate itself to the Chyle, the Blood, and finally to the Lymph, with which it associates, and as I have already observ'd, accompanies it in all Parts of the Body whereunto it is convey'd; and when it is arrived at the Pores of the Skin, its volatile Parts escape in a mercurial Perspiration, and being darted against the surrounding Air, and meeting with the Vapour of that which is worn externally, they together form a Bulk capable of environing the Body, and mundifying and clearing away whatsoever is vicious, malignant and epidemical in the Air which we touch and breathe: Thus is one Part of the Mercury which is taken at the Mouth, voided by Stool, another Part circulates with the Lymph, and the other is carried off by Perspiration.

The Stomach, according to some of the Ancients as well as Moderns, is the Seat of almost all Diseases; it is likewise this Organ which receives the Remedies designed for their Cure.

When they are convey'd into this Part, they must of Necessity be mixed and confounded with Ferments, which, according to their Qualities, will render them either hurtful or useless.

Be it as it will, this Mixture increased or diminished, will always alter the Virtue of the Remedy, and frequently render its Effects bad or uncertain.

This happens not with regard to Mercury; it receives no manner of Alteration in the Stomach, nothing is able to restrain or mix with it; its separated volatile Particles unite with the Blood alone, changing neither their Form nor Nature. The Heat of the Body is not sufficient to sublime it; it continues to be what it was; and having made the Tour of the whole Microcosm, in order to attack and destroy the most dangerous Enemies of it, it takes its Leave in the same Form it enter'd, excepting that Part of it which goes off by Perspiration.

All this is perform'd insensibly, without Tumult, Struggling or Pain. It breaks and dissolves the thick

and viscous Matters which it meets with in the Stomach and Intestines, and destroys by its Percussion and the Motion of its round Particles, all the indigested Matters which are collected on the Membranes, and renders them fluid, and fit to be discharged: That which is mixed with the Blood, works the same Effect in all Places to which the Lymph is convey'd; it forces all the Obstacles, and demolishes all the Banks which oppose the Current of the Liquors.

By its Figure it opens, dissipates, dilates and disconcerts all unnatural Unions in the Body.

These dissipated and broken Matters are all conducted by a kind of *Crisis*, to the Emunctories of the Body: And this is the Manner in which I explain my Notions of the Actions of Mercury in the Stomach, Intestines and Liquors.

It is certain that all the heterogeneous Matters which the Mercury has disconcerted, shaken, dislodged, and broken, do follow the Road and Motion of the Fluids.

The more gross and thick Parts are convey'd into the Intestines, as useless and superfluous.

The more subtile Parts of these Matters are sent to the excretory Glands; and by the Rapidity of the Motion which the Mercury has communicated to them, they can make no Stay there, but being blended with the volatile Parts of the Mercury, they go off by Perspiration, and drag along with them whatsoever is vicious or foreign in the Glands.

It is after this Manner that I have before accounted for the speedy and surprizing Effects which this Remedy did produce in Obstructions of the Skin and cutaneous Glands.

All this is done by the Mercury which is in the Vessels, and accompanies the Motion of the Liquors: But as the nutritious Juice, design'd for the Nourishment of the Parts, must of Necessity expand itself every where; and that this Juice or Balm of the Blood must be impregnated with Mercury, it cannot avoid striking and rubbing against the Acids which are collected in
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the Pores of the Membranes, in *Sciatica's*, Rheumatisms, and other Pains of the muscular Parts.

Mercury must therefore break off their Points, and by its Motion and Figure destroy them; no other Thing being capable of working the same Effect.

Behold then how Mercury comes to be an *Absorbent* and a *Dissolvent*, Terms in common Use!

It absorbs, without loading itself with Acids, or any other Substance; and it dissolves, without having the least Degree of Heat; is not this really a Matter of Speculation?

A * Lord of the first Quality in our Court, equally distinguish'd by his Merit, Birth and Employs, who does me the Honour of his Friendship, and was pleased to read over my Treatise on Mercury in Manuscript, being a competent Judge of the Value of a Work, started to me a very judicious Objection, which gave Occasion to the short Discourse which I am going to subjoin.

You assert, says he, that crude Mercury is communicated to the Blood and Liquors; and yet as soon as it gets into the Stomach, mix'd and incorporated with your Pills, they are dissolv'd: The Mercury then quitting the Ingredients with which it was blended, all its divided Particles reunite and form a Globe, which cannot remain long in the Stomach, but passing the *Pylorus*, enters the Intestines, and is discharged by the *Anus*; so that none of this Mercury can be communicated to the Liquors.

I agree, replied I, that the Pills are soon dissolv'd by the Humidity of the Stomach, and the warm Liquor in which they are swallow'd: But then it must likewise be taken into Consideration, that the Mercury is very minutely divided in the Pills; that during the Time this Dissolution is performing, the Degree of Heat which is in the Stomach, is exactly sufficient to elevate a Sort of little Cloud of the more volatile Particles of the Mercury: They quit the Substances that

* *Le Marquis de Rivarole.*

with-held them, and insinuate themselves with Ease and Speed into the Orifices of the lacteal Veins, whose Figure is exactly adapted to receive them; thus are they carried into the Blood, and accompany it in its Circulation. What makes me conjecture that this is Fact, is, that I have observed, that in Subjects where the Stomach is loaded with gelatinous and viscous Matters, which line its internal Membrane, and close up the Orifices of the lacteal Vessels; these little Globules getting at Liberty during the Time of the Dissolution, and not being able to enter the Vessels, do strike against these Matters, divide, subtilise and loosen them: By this Shock and the Weight of the Matters which fall to the Bottom of the Stomach, a small Vomiting is sometimes excited, much to the Patient's Advantage; but it is only the first Dose which produces this Effect, and that very seldom.

Whether it be produced by these Matters or not, it is certain that the subtile Particles of Mercury are very quickly communicated to the Mass of Blood. To be convinced of this, one need only to examine what it does in Tumours, Obstructions, the Gravel, Gout, *Sciatica*, Rheumatism, &c. With what Expedition it operates in Diseases of the Skin, and of all other Parts of the Body.

To form a right Judgment of the Subtility of the volatile Particles of Mercury, we need only consider the Minuteness of the Ramifications of the sanguinary and lymphatick Vessels, into which it insinuates itself, and mixes with those Liquors.

An Anatomist shew'd me several Membranes, some of which were as fine as a Spider's Web, whose Vessels he had injected with so great Art, that I was astonish'd at his Skill and Patience: By the Assistance of a Microscope one might discern Millions of Vessels within the Space of four Fingers Breadth, two hundred of which, if put together, would have been scarce so big as a Hair.

By this appears the Necessity of keeping the Humours in a fluid State, and with what Ease Coagulations,

tions, Impediments, and Obstructions may be formed.

It will occasion no Surprize that I assert, that the subtile Particles of the Mercury penetrate into the Orifices and the Ramifications of the finest Tubes, if it shall be consider'd, that Mercury inclos'd in a Quill seal'd up close, will nevertheless perspire and escape through the Pores of the Quill, which are utterly imperceptible.

The *Aq. Hermetica* shews the Subtility and Lightness of the volatile Particles of Mercury; which although it be boiled ever so many Times in the Water, and the Water be impregnated with its subtile Particles, yet is its Weight not sensibly diminish'd.

I have heard, tho' never made the Experiment, that if a Person keeps the End of his Finger on crude Mercury a good while together, holding in his Mouth, at the same time, a Piece of Gold; the Gold shall be tinged white, and that without any perceptible Diminution of the Mercury.

These are Evidences of the prodigious Volatility of Mercury, and that nothing but Gold can arrest its subtile Particles; whether the Figure of the Pores of that Metal be dispos'd to receiv'd it, which seems likely, or that there is a certain Analogy between these two Metals which constrains them to seek and be united with each other. It penetrates, with the like Ease, the cuticular Pores, insinuating and communicating itself internally. It is notorious, and it falls out but too often, that mercurial Applications, whether by Way of Unguents or Plaisters, design'd for the Dissolutions of Tumours, tho' in small Quantities, do raise Salivations, to the Surprize of the Practitioner, who will be sure for the future to make use of them with greater Caution than before.

It may be objected to me, that Mercury worn about one should, for the same Reason, produce the same Effect, and especially since so subtile a Vapour is capable of penetrating with great Facility.

It is true that it penetrates, that it renders the Lymph more subtile and fluid, and by consequence occasions

occasions the Person to spit more easily and more copiously : I have seen the Effect of it in myself and others ; but this Evacuation is beneficial and salutary, and cannot be called a Salivation.

This simple Vapour has neither Substance nor Force sufficient to oppose the Course of the Blood : It cannot make Resistance enough to stop the Currents of the Liquors, and finally to sublime them to the upper Parts : It is a kind of subtile Fume, which gives way without Resistance, which penetrates the Liquors without Struggle, which unites with them, and follows their natural Motion, and which finally can never produce any noxious Effect.

On the contrary, when it is applied externally in Unguents or Plaisters, it is admitted through the Pores into the Vessel in Substance ; and is then capable of opposing the natural Course of the Fluids, as far as it extends ; which in some Subjects is sufficient to excite a Sublimation and a real Salivation ; and this we see does frequently happen.

All these Things suppose a Commerce between the subtile Matter of the first Element, and the Mercury : I only touch upon this Article, because it is beside my Subject.

It may be said, that the Elevation of the volatile Particles of Mercury, which I suppose to be made in the Stomach, is a Sublimation ; and yet I have said that it cannot be sublimed in the Body, when taken at the Mouth : Here seems to be a Contradiction.

The Observations which I have made on Mercury, on its Action, and on its Effects, when taken at the Mouth, could never persuade me, that it could be so far sublimed as to rise up to the Head, which I call a real Sublimation ; except in a few very particular Cases ; for Example, that of *Mr. Reffent*.

I only believe that its volatile Particles may in the Stomach be elevated so far in the Dissolution of the Pills, as to mix with that admirable Cream which results from Digestion, I mean the Chyle, so that they pass into the Lacteals together : The Capacity of the
Stomach;

Stomach, its Heat and Ferments, together with the subtile Liquors which it associates sympathetically, favour this Manner of Action.

When it enters these small Veins, it pursues the Course of the Liquors which they have suck'd in: It is then no longer susceptible of Sublimation, being mixed with a Fluid which is to it as a Vehicle.

This Objection has occasion'd all these Remarks, which have carried me a little from my Subject.

The *Crisis* excited by Frictions, which is made by the Mouth, cannot be perform'd without doing a Violence to Nature: It is shameful, odious, painful and dangerous: It demands the most diligent Attendance and Precaution. To procure the desired Benefit from a Salivation, it must be carried to Excess, and the Patient must be reduced to the last Extremity. If he is weak, you must curb his Flux, and in thus favouring him, your End is lost. All that you have done, and he has undergone, will serve only to make the Disease more rebellious, and difficult to be rooted out.

These imperfect Cures add Strength and Vigour to the *Virus*, the Patient becomes disheartned, and will not run the Risque of exposing himself a second Time to the Uncertainty and Danger of such a Method; and should the Flux be carried to such a Pitch as is requisite to exterminate the Disease, he is then in the utmost Peril of sinking under it.

It is a Prophanation of the Mouth, to subject it to a Function so disagreeable, so base, and, in a Word, so unworthy of it.

It should seem to me more conformable to Reason and Nature, to chuse out in its stead an Emunctory which Nature has design'd for the most vile and abject Offices.

The Intestines and *Anus* have ever been accustomed to carry off the Filth of the Body: Reason points out the same Road to me when I undertake the Cure of venereal Disorders with my Mercury, as likewise of all other Maladies which arise from Acids, the Number of which is very considerable.

This

This Mercury being mixed with Purgatives, the whole is determined downwards by Stool; it being taken at repeated Intervals, the former Doses are Preparatives to those which succeed; they begin to effect a Dissolution and Fluidity of the Humours, and the subsequent ones do with Ease procure themselves to be evacuated, and that constantly in the most salutary and gentle manner.

Thus is a kind of Flux by the *Anus* obtain'd, which may be prolonged at Pleasure, and I have many Reasons to believe it preferable to the other.

It will be found extremely commodious for such Persons, as desire a Cure to be wrought in the utmost Privacy, without Confinement to Bed or Chamber, or Restriction from their usual way of living: It will answer all these Ends, and the Cure will be effected without the least Danger, in a gentle and easy manner.

The evil Preparations of Mercury, usually given at the Mouth, and the small Advantage accruing from them, have brought Salivations into Vogue: Those who have been cured by this Method, have set forth the Excellency of this Remedy; those who have dy'd under it could tell no Tales; those who have escaped a Cure, have thought proper to decry it, believing that their Disorder was above the Reach of Mercury. And indeed the different Opinion of Physicians concerning its Virtues, Nature and Use, have given Birth to a Multitude of Doubts, and all this for want of knowing it rightly.

Some praise, and others condemn it: One is for given it crude, another looks upon it as a Poison when unprepar'd. It has been disguised under a Multitude of Forms, yet when you take away its Figure and Motion, you rob it of its Force and Virtue.

When taken at the Mouth, in the Manner I give it, it drives out the Impurities of the Body, by the same way that the natural Filth passes every Day of our Lives.

The Intestines, to answer these Ends without Pain, are throughout their whole internal Surface, lined with
a Mu-

a Mucilage, which defends them from being stimulated by the acid, bilious, and corrosive Matters which pass through them in order to be discharged. And for this Reason it is, that the venereal *Virus*, when it takes this Road, produces no mischievous Consequences.

I shall doubtless be told, that the Bulk of mercurial Vapour which I suppose to inviron the Body, mixing with the Air we breathe, must of Necessity, in Respiration, enter into the Lungs.

This is indisputably certain and inevitable; but it will there perform the Part of a Remedy, and a Preservative against Corruption; will render the Respiration easy, by dividing and making fluid whatever was tenacious in the Lungs; and may be of good Service in *Asthma's* and Shortness of Breath, as I have often experienced, tho' the Effect will be much promoted by the internal Use of it. If it should happen, which it very rarely does, that the Workers in mercurial Mines should be somewhat incommoded, it should be consider'd that they do their Business under Ground, where the Air is extremely loaded with volatile Mercury, and that they breathe, in a Manner, nothing but Mercury; that they spend their Days there, and that it is nothing else but the immense Quantity which produces the Harm: Besides, great Numbers continue their whole Lives in those Places without receiving the least Damage.

Those who have no ill Apprehensions of Mercury, but with regard to the Salivation which it raises, may lay that Fear aside when they take it as it ought to be prepar'd; it being bridled and restrained from playing any such Pranks, and may be taken for a Year together with the utmost Safety, as the Multitude of Cures which I have perform'd with it do testify.

Therefore having from infinite Experience been convinced of its good Effects, and reflecting seriously on the Matter, I contrived a System, by which I explain'd to myself the Manner how these Consequences were brought about.

And finally, I rested in this Opinion, as I have already said, that the whole Force and Virtue of Mercury
consists

consists in its Volatility, its Figure, and its Motion : Whether I have determined justly upon the Matter or no, let Mercury act after this Manner, or any other, as different as you can imagine, it is full Satisfaction to me, that I have been able to convince the avowed Enemies of Mercury, of its Goodness, Use and Virtues.

If my Notions are wrong, the whole Blame rests upon myself, for I have borrowed none of them from any Author : If any one ever wrote of Mercury in the Manner which I have done, his Book never came to my Knowledge. Experience has been my Master, my Director, and my Guide, as well in this, as in all that I have hitherto, at any Time, communicated to the Publick.

I am apt to believe that no Person before me, ever made Use of it for so long a Time, and on so many different Occasions; and upon the whole, I cannot but think, that if such a Thing as an universal Medicine be at all to be obtain'd, it must be from Mercury.

The Difference of Climates (for I have sent it to very remote Parts) of Seasons, of Temperaments, of Ages, of Sexes, of Diseases internal or external, varies not the Efficacy of this Remedy: It produces sometimes a little sooner, sometimes a little later, such Consequences as are ever salutary. This seems somewhat to favour the Opinion of those who believe that all Diseases incident to Mankind, are produced from one Cause: If this Opinion be just, then one Remedy may cure them all.

The different Effects, and the different Diseases which this first Cause or Ferment produces in us, may depend intirely on the different Dispositions which it meets with in the Subjects; itself being ever the same, tho' under a Disguise or Masque.

Many Things concur to make this Difference in the Temperaments: The Influences which predominate at the Time of Conception or Birth, Climates, Air, and Food, do all determine the Inclination, the Disposition, the Strength, the Weakness, the Virtues, the Vices,
and

and the different Qualities of the Blood and Humours.

There are Diseases that are hereditary; there are some that are peculiar to certain Countries, to the Land, to the Sea, to Youth, to Age, which have their Singularities: There are Disorders which are contracted by a wrong Use of natural Things, too much or too little Exercise, and being accustomed to certain Liquors.

About twenty four Years ago I was commissioned by my Royal Mistress to visit *M. le Marquis de Lucé*, her Gentleman of the Horse, at *Milan*, who was dangerously wounded: The Weather being at that Time exceeding hot, I drank to quench my Thirst for eight Days together, a certain black Wine of that Country, which being new and crude, it form'd an Acid in my Blood, which in fourteen or fifteen Days render'd the Lymph so thick and fizy, that the tartareous Parts of the Blood, being of a sandy Nature, were so concreted and united thereby, as to form little Stones, which I believed would prove fatal to me. I got quite rid of this Complaint by crude Mercury, all other Remedies proving ineffectual.

This Sketch of a Theory, which Mercury gave me occasion to offer, (its volatile Particles having elevated me quite above my Sphere) gives me a Suspicion, that besides the universal Ferment, which I believe is almost as old as the World itself, there is another particular Ferment produced from the Mixture of several Seeds, which having been fermented together, gave rise to a vicious and contagious Venom, which no Time will be able to destroy, and whose Impressions are communicated from Generation to Generation.

The Ancients had not the least Notion of such a Ferment. It escaped the Sagacity even of the great *Hippocrates*; tho' the Leprosy, so common in his Days, was of this Production, being according to several Authors, no other than an inveterate Pox.

As the Seed was first infected with this *Virus*, some are of Opinion that the ill Impression which it once receiv'd, can never be entirely effaced, but that it will descend

descend to Posterity for ever; that it multiplies more or less according to the Disposition of Subjects; that it is capable of being communicated to either Sex a Multitude of Ways, without the Violation of Chastity: That it is difficult to meet with a Family which have not derived from their Ancestors some Sparks of this Evil, which is grown very common since Mothers have left off suckling their own Children; that this Leaven which lies disguis'd under a great Variety of Forms, and so frequently puzzles the Physician in his Judgment and Prognosticks, may lye quiet, and be worn out in all Appearance, but that its coagulative Substance always remains; that it may spare the Father, and afflict the Son or Grand-son; that it may be detach'd to the glandular Parts, and continue there a long Time in Repose; that certain Dispositions may rouse, exalt, and put it in Motion, so that it shall re-enter the circulating Fluids, and be deposited upon certain Parts, producing Gouts in the Joints, Rheumatisms in the muscular Parts, Gravel in the Kidneys, *Scrophula's* in the Glands, Cancers in the Breast, Obstructions in the *Viscera*, Scurfs, Itch, Ulcers, Leprosies, &c. The far greater Part of which Diseases are the real Posterity of the Pox.

In such a Conjecture, a judicious Physician will find it no easy Task to propose to his Patient the Use of a Remedy which implies so ignominious a Disease, when he is well assur'd that it cannot be the Fruit of his own Debauches: The very mention of Mercury, which alone is able to vanquish these *Hydra's*, will carry a Horror along with it: And thus is he deprived of a certain Relief, and must be content to put up with a mere palliative Cure.

Thus do a great Number of afflicted Persons languish out a tedious Length between Diseases and Remedies, and become incurable in the End.

Experience authorises such a Manner of Reasoning, and at the same Time shews, that Mercury being, beyond all Contradiction, a specific Remedy in the Cure of the Pox, it must likewise remove all other Complaints that depend upon the same Cause; and if the Cause of
such

such Complaints is capable of being destroy'd, it is this alone that has Power sufficient to do it: A great Number of Remedies may restrain and palliate the Symptoms, and procure a Truce, but nothing but Mercury will eradicate the Principle from which they arise.

What is surprizing in the crude Mercury, which I give by the Mouth, is, that the Gentleness with which it acts, seems inconsistent with the prodigious, salutary, and speedy Effects which it produces; and that without the least unlucky Accident, as I can sincerely aver, from above three and forty Years Use of it. The like cannot be affirmed of any other Medicine.

The more the Patient takes of it, the more will he find himself to advance in Strength, and a good Plight of Body.

The Thing will appear very possible, upon an unprejudiced Consideration, that the Mercury, as I have before shewn, insinuates itself very speedily into the Liquors, and renders the Blood more soft, more fluid, and more fit to be carried and convey'd into the finest Vessels, at ever so great a Distance, by the way of Circulation, in order to communicate Nourishment to the several Parts of the Body; that it destroys without Dispute, all Obstructions and Obstacles; that it opens the Tubes, and the depuratory Canals; that it facilitates and forwards the menstrual Discharge in Women; that it removes every Thing that might hinder the Distribution of the nutritious Juice, and the natural Course of the Spirits and Fluids; that it ruins and absorbs the Acids which occasion Leanness, and are the Foundation of a great Number of Infirmities; and that it brings about the Evacuation of every Thing that is heterogeneous and vicious, without meddling with any Thing that is good or necessary.

All these Things shew, that crude Mercury, used in my Manner, does no ways weaken, but strengthens and fattens.

These are my Notions of the mechanical Action of Mercury on vicious Ferments, of what Nature soever

they be ; that it may be administred without Danger in the most considerable and desperate Cases, as well as in the most simple. For Example. The Apoplexy and Palsy being produced from a too thick Blood, and from viscous Humours settling in the Brain, the Mercury restoring to the Blood its native Fluidity, and destroying the Viscosities, a free Circulation of the Liquors and Spirits must ensue ; for by removing the Obstructions, the essential Cause of these Diseases is remov'd. A Cataract is caused by a foreign Matter coagulated by Degrees between the chrySTALLINE Humour, and the *Uvea*, or by a Thickness of the Liquors which circulate in the ChrySTALLINE, closing up at last the Aperature of the Pupil.

There is no doubt but this Dissolvent would dissipate such a Coagulation, if it were apply'd in Time.

A *Gutta serena* is no other than an Obstruction in the Optick Nerve, caused by Substance of the same Nature ; the same Remedy would in all likelihood be attended with Success.

In short, all Parts of the Body, sound or unsound, without Exception, are equally penetrated by Mercury in healthful Persons : In them it acts the Part of a Friend and Benefactor ; and to diseased Persons, it is a Restorer, a Redeemer, and a Corrector of the Causes of their Complaints.

What renders it extremely agreeable, is, that during its Use, the Patient enjoys a perfect Tranquility and Calm ; it acts without occasioning any Conflict or Disgust.

This should make it seem probable, that it is pleasing and delightful to Nature ; since by its Means she is delivered from that which oppresses her ; without suffering any Alteration or Disorder in her usual Functions.

There can be no greater Proof than this, that Nature is an Enemy to Violence ; of which I have endeavour'd to convince all young Surgeons in my former Work, treating of the Cure of Wounds. All these Conclusions and surprizing Operations are wrought without Force, without Violence, and without Noise ; she subdues

subdues every Thing without putting herself in a Hurry; she nourishes all Things, produces all Things, preserves all Things, increases all Things, without subjecting her Actions to our View. The prudent Physician should follow her Conduct, and imitate her in the Cure of Diseases.

I have seen such a Method of Practice pursued, with an infinite deal of Satisfaction, by the learned and judicious M. *Cicognini*, Counsellor and first Physician to her Royal Highness. I am beholden to his Merit and to Truth, for this authentick Declaration, having been an Eye-witness to his Treatment of several Patients, whom he cured without giving them any Medicine, by observing with great Judgment the Motions of Nature, as she acted alone of herself, when she was so inclined or able; and lending her his Assistance when she stood in need of it. This is performing the Part of a Physician to the utmost Perfection.

This Treatise, I am sensible of it, will seem tedious: My Subject has carried me beyond what I intended; I think, however, that there is nothing in it from which some Advantage may not be drawn. I have fallen into Repetitions through the Weakness of my Capacity, and the Connexion of the Proofs, Reasons, and Cases which I have expatiated upon; endeavouring to support a Fact which I believed to be entirely new, without any Manner of Assistance from Greek or Latin.

I was sensible enough that I should meet with Opposition, either from Envy or Prejudice, there being Persons enough in the World who are sworn Enemies to Novelties, and who, to save themselves the Fatigue of exercising their Wits, are resolved peaceably, blindly and supinely to tread in the Paths of Antiquity, right or wrong, to applaud whatever has been handed down of old, and to condemn without Appeal, every Thing that is not of that Stamp.

How, say they, can a poor Practitioner, without Learning or Education, have the Assurance to patronize a Remedy which the most famous Authors have rejected? The famous *Fernelius* rejected it because he

knew nothing of it: What precipitate Rashness was this!

Well, say they, Physick and Surgery have for several Centuries been in Possession of a great many excellent Remedies: Must these be given up a Sacrifice to Mercury, and that upon the Credit of some Cures which Chance had the greatest Share in? Because his former Work, wherein he attacks the venerable Oracles of Antiquity, was suffered to go unpunish'd, does he imagine that This shall escape without being sifted, censured, and exploded? Tho' the Rage of such an Outcry may be thought sufficient to demolish both the Author and his System, yet it gives me no very terrible Apprehensions: I allow that Faults deserving enough of Censure, and likewise faulty Expressions, may be pick'd out of this Treatise, which I did not design for a Piece of Eloquence: Besides, the finest Pictures have their Shadows.

I am however in Hopes, that the Force of Truth, and the Reflections which Men of Reason shall make upon this Subject, will be sufficient to justify me, and protect this Treatise of Mercury, especially since it is the Result of above three and forty Years Experience; that a little Time and a little Patience will make it triumph over its Enemies; and that this Remedy will, some time or other, have the Preference beyond almost all the Remedies that are in Use, for the Good and Benefit of Mankind.

When a Man is arriv'd at 70 Years of Age, every Day of his Life may be regarded as critical, and every Year as climacterical; it should therefore seem to behove me to keep my Preparation and Composition of Mercury no longer a Secret; especially, since in my former Work I gave the World a kind of Promise that I would communicate it one Day or other. That Day is not yet come: The Rigour of the Times, and the considerable Losses I have sustain'd in my own Country, have been the Means of postponing it.

My Family may find a comfortable Subsistence from it, and it may be as a kind of Recompence to them for being depriv'd of the Benefit of my Labours for
many

‘ him here ; having not Power to exprefs the great
‘ Obligations I owe him, &c.

The Encomiums which M. *Mancheti* gives of this Remedy cannot be suspected : He is a very skilful and judicious Physician, and he could not be silent about the good Effects which this Mercury wrought on his Brother, who by Means of it was entirely freed from a dangerous Disease, as likewise upon himself, who in another Letter of *February 24*, seems to flatter himself that he shall no more be troubled with the Gout, which afflicted him so much before, and kept him confin’d to his Chamber for Months together ; adding, that since he began to make use of my Medicine, he has had only one small Fit, which lasted him but one Day ; and that he should be glad to know if this Remedy may be employ’d in a large, hard, and inveterate scirrhus Tumour.

I return’d him Answer forthwith, that he might boldly venture upon the Use of it, not only in this, but in all other Tumours ; that within a Month past, I had under my Care a Gentleman of Distinction, well known to M. *Cicognini*, who had a very bad *Sarcocoele*, accompanied with a Hardness of the whole Tongue, yet both these Complaints were cured with great Expedition, without any other Remedy ; that M. *Bouillon*, Professor-Royal in our University, had sent him to me ; and that the same very learned Physician had long since made Tryal of it in other very difficult Cases, to his entire Satisfaction.

Having had no Opportunity of saying any Thing about a *Polypus* in this Treatise ; and these Letters from *Rome* having been sent after I had finish’d it, I thought it would not be amiss to subjoin something concerning the Cure of Dr. *Mancheti*’s Brother ; because I think I have luckily fallen upon something which I may call a new Discovery.

The *Polypus*, is an Excrescence of Flesh, which takes its Name from its Figure : it resembling a Fish that is

so call'd. It is engender'd from an acrid, tenacious, viscous Blood, which circulates very slowly; this gives occasion to the acrid and acid Humours to excoriate the Orifices of certain Vessels, and at the same time, to thicken the nutritious Juice which flows for the Sustainance of the Parts, and mixing with the other viscous Liquors, forms Excrescences, which take Root where the Excoriations began, and which take the Figure of the Places or Cavities in which they are formed: In the Heart, the Vessels, and the Nose, they are long, rounded or flat; and in the *Scrotum* they constitute a round Mass which is called *Sarcocoele*. Thus these Maladies, though they go under different Names, are all of one and the same Nature.

Experience having convinced me, on a Multitude of Occasions, that my Mercury cures these *Sarcocoele*'s, the same Remedy must likewise cure the *Polypus*, where-soever it be.

It is not difficult to conceive how this should be: It destroys the acid and acrid Humours, and renders them fluid: Their Thickness is the efficient Cause of these Diseases; and the Cause being remov'd, the Symptoms cease.

It liquifies and resolves all unnatural Unions; by the former of which Properties it hinders the Progress of a Disease, which might otherwise increase, and occasion the Person's Death; and by the latter it destroys the Tumour, and acts upon the Excrescence, as it does on *Scirrhus*'s, glandular Tumours, and Obstructions.

Finally, to put an End to this Treatise, which is already too long, though I find it's difficult to finish it on the Account of the new Proofs which continually offer, I will add this short Reflection, without abusing my Reader's Patience any longer.

Every one is sensible that all Countries abound with a great Number of People of no Service to the Community, who are kept at a considerable Expence in Hospitals, on Account of several real and pretended Infirmities,

Infirmities, which their Manner of Living, either in Laziness, or in Fatigue and Misery, has brought upon them, who pass for incurable, and are really so at last, for want of using the only Remedy which is capable of curing them speedily, and with small Expence.

Crude Mercury taken at the Mouth, would clear the Hospitals of them all, and re-establish Numbers of slothful Vagabonds in a Condition to work; who under a Pretext of certain Maladies, which they industriously cherish and prolong till they become contagious, infect whole Cities and Countries, and extort Alms, which they apply to evil Uses.

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